COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 9.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1889.

(In continuation of Colonial Report No. 82, Old Series.)

Preſented to both Houſes of Parliament by Command of Her Majeſty.
May 1891.

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No. 9.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Sir W. F. HAYNES SMITH to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Antigua,
March 11, 1891.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book for the Leeward Islands for the year 1889, together with a report from the Colonial Secretary.

2. The Blue Book for the Colony is in substitution for the five Blue Books which were formerly issued, a separate Blue Book having hitherto been issued for each of the five Presidencies of the Colony. It is hoped that the usual information will be found to have been compiled in the present Blue Book for the whole Colony in a more convenient form than when it had to be obtained from the separate Blue Books for each Presidency, while full details are at the same time given in the present Blue Book as to each separate Island and Presidency.

3. Various causes have unfortunately delayed the printing of the Blue Book for the year 1889 for so long a period, that I reserve any remarks on the condition and prospects of the Colony until the issue of the Blue Book for the year 1890, which is now being completed in the ordinary course.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. F. HAYNES SMITH.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Antigua,
February 24, 1891.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1889, together with a brief report I have made thereon.

For the first time the Blue Book has been printed, and to the time the printing has occupied is the delay in its presentation mainly attributable.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

I have every reason to hope that I may have the 1890 Blue Book ready not later than June next.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. EVANS,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
W. F. Haynes Smith, K.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of the LEEWARD ISLANDS COLONY for the Year 1889.

1.—REVENUE.

The year 1889 brought in 112,254*l.* as against 104,442*l.* in 1888. Of this increase (7,812*l.*) 7,541*l.* was received from Customs.

In St. Kitts-Nevis there was a small decrease of 35*l.*, but in each of the other Presidencies the revenue was in excess of the previous year's receipts.

The following statements show the receipts for each Presidency in 1889 and a comparison between the total revenue and the Customs receipts in 1888 and 1889:—

1889.

Comparative Statement of Revenue.

Heads of Revenue.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Customs - - - - -	31,377 5 6	26,585 3 7	12,213 0 0
2. Port, harbour, wharf, and lighthouse dues - - - - -	1,237 7 7	3,404 14 4	839 0 4
3. Licences, Excise, &c. - - -	5,866 10 3	7,044 12 7	5,819 4 4
4. Fees of Court, &c. - - -	3,330 19 1	1,139 0 6	446 14 5
5. Post Office, &c. - - - -	1,027 15 2	905 8 4	444 0 8
6. Rents of Government property -	200 0 0	459 6 6	—
7. Interest - - - - -	202 6 0	153 13 2	21 14 7
8. Miscellaneous receipts - - -	166 7 2	313 4 6	40 13 9
Total - - - -	43,408 10 9	40,005 3 6	19,824 8 1
9. Land Sales - - - -	—	—	—
Total - - - -	43,408 10 9	40,005 3 6	19,824 8 1
Arrears of 1888 - - -	—	28 [illegible] 1	671 13 2
Total revenue - - -	43,408 10 9	40,	20,496 1 3

(*Continued.*)

Heads of Revenue.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total Leeward Islands.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Customs	4,470 14 2	1,136 16 2	75,782 19 5
2. Port, harbour, wharf and lighthouse dues	13 3 9	24 7 6	5,518 13 6
3. Licenses, Excise, &c.	1,493 18 1	295 5 4	20,519 10 7
4. Fees of Court, &c.	214 3 9	92 6 9	5,223 4 6
5. Post Office, &c.	210 17 3	225 5 7	2,813 7 0
6. Rents of Government property	—	0 10 0	659 16 6
7. Interest	—	—	377 13 9
8. Miscellaneous receipts	11 12 1	17 6 3	549 3 9
Total	6,414 9 1	1,791 17 7	111,444 9 0
9. Land Sales	—	96 19 5	96 19 5
Total	6,414 9 1	1,888 17 0	111,541 8 5
Arrears of 1888	11 15 10	—	712 6 1
Total revenue	6,426 4 11	1,888 17 0	112,253 14 6

Presidency.	1888.		1889.	
	Revenue.	Customs.	Revenue.	Customs.
	£	£	£	£
Antigua	39,522	28,116	43,409	31,377
St. Kitts-Nevis	40,069	27,773	40,034	26,585
Dominica	17,450	8,594	20,496	12,213
Montserrat	5,851	3,045	6,426	4,471
Virgin Islands	1,550	715	1,889	1,137
Total	104,442	68,242	112,254	75,783

2.—EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure in 1889 was 108,551*l.*, as against 116,225*l.* in 1888. It was less than the revenue by a sum of 3,703*l.* About one-fifth of it (21,265*l.*) was disbursed under the heads "Medical" and "Hospitals," and more than one-sixth (16,496*l.*) under "Public Works." The charge on account of the public debt was 3,743*l.*, and the pensions paid amounted to 3,668*l.*

The collection of the Customs cost 6,960*l.*

A table showing the amounts disbursed in each Presidency is appended.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

1889.

Comparative Statement of Expenditure.

Heads of Expenditure.	Antigua.			St. Kitt's-Nevis.			Dominica.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Charge on account, public debt	1,602	3	0	698	3	2	1,197	4	4
2. Pensions	258	13	4	2,173	10	3	763	14	4
3. Legislature	75	0	0	100	0	0	51	7	6
4. Island Secretary (Commissioner)	162	19	7	776	16	3	754	8	11
5. Federal contribution	2,794	11	4	3,050	5	9	1,614	10	3
6. Treasury and Customs	2,362	16	8	2,243	8	3	1,929	19	3
7. Audit	170	0	0	—			—		
8. Port and marine	618	7	3	72	10	7	58	16	9
9. Registrar and Provost Marshal	957	14	10	721	18	6	570	12	4
Magistrates	1,055	0	0	1,834	14	5	542	11	6
10. Police	3,538	3	9	2,688	9	10	1,811	17	10
11. Prisons	1,849	1	1	1,521	12	3	653	9	9
12. Medical	2,235	7	8	2,009	8	6	926	13	0
13. Hospitals	6,749	18	7	4,987	15	10	2,564	15	11
14. Education	1,239	6	0	1,450	1	4	926	3	6
15. Ecclesiastical	671	18	8	789	5	0	—		
16. Board of Health	2,336	13	2	1,713	6	3	566	8	7
17. Registration and vaccination	276	15	0	545	4	6	151	0	8
18. Public market	195	12	8	63	19	6	15	19	0
19. Public library	180	0	0	37	0	0	—		
20. Laboratory	629	9	7	—			—		
21. Military	1,009	0	3	55	0	0	—		
22. Miscellaneous	620	3	9	591	9	10	927	3	10
23. Post Office	1,338	4	3	1,539	16	7	589	17	4
Telegraphs	800	0	0	800	0	0	800	0	0
Telephones	728	14	3	376	16	5	—		
24. Public Works Department	1,067	11	5	782	13	7	526	5	4
25. Public works recurrent	5,918	9	7	3,637	12	3	1,971	16	3
Total	41,441	15	8	35,060	18	10	19,914	16	2
26. Public works extraordinary	—			4,024	8	10	—		
Total	41,441	15	8	39,085	7	8	19,914	16	2
Arrears of 1888	13	11	5	—			—		
Total	41,455	7	1	39,085	7	8	19,914	16	2

(*Continued.*)

Heads of Expenditure.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total Leeward Islands.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Charge on account, public debt	245 0 0	—	3,742 10 6
2. Pensions	337 7 1	134 16 2	3,668 1 2
3. Legislature	—	5 0 0	231 7 6
4. Island Secretary (Commissioner)	490 0 0	466 14 4	2,650 19 1
5. Federal contribution	538 3 5	174 15 10	8,172 6 7
6. Treasury and Customs	266 0 1	158 1 8	6,960 5 11
7. Audit	—	—	170 0 0
8. Port and marine	—	—	749 14 7
9. Registrar and Provost Marshal	33 14 8	—	2,284 0 4
Magistrates	24 0 0	66 19 7	3,523 5 6
10. Police	358 10 10	32 12 6	8,429 14 9
11. Prisons	180 2 8	102 10 10	4,306 16 7
12. Medical	426 6 10	204 18 1	5,802 14 1
13. Hospitals	873 13 4	286 4 7	15,462 8 3
14. Education	339 9 0	91 4 0	4,046 3 10
15. Ecclesiastical	458 15 0	12 0 0	1,931 18 8
16. Board of Health	123 10 2	—	4,739 18 2
17. Registration and vaccination	62 13 8	25 13 9	1,061 7 7
18. Public market	34 16 0	—	310 7 2
19. Public library	25 0 0	—	242 0 0
20. Laboratory	—	—	629 9 7
21. Military	—	—	1,064 0 3
22. Miscellaneous	183 19 0	70 0 11	2,392 17 4
23. Post Office	183 5 2	80 14 1	3,531 17 5
Telegraphs	—	—	2,400 0 0
Telephones	—	—	1,105 10 8
24. Public Works Department	55 0 0	—	2,431 10 4
25. Public works recurrent	522 18 1	38 12 11	12,089 19 1
Total	5,762 5 0	1,950 19 3	104,130 14 11
26. Public works extraordinary	382 8 8	—	4,406 17 6
Total	6,144 13 8	1,950 19 3	108,537 12 5
Arrears of 1888	—	—	13 11 5
Total	6,144 13 8	1,950 19 3	108,551 3 10

3.—PUBLIC DEBT.

The gross liabilities of the Colony increased in 1889 from 80,819*l.* to 91,631*l.*, the gross assets having also been increased from 32,987*l.* to 45,389*l.*

Leeward Islands.

In Antigua an additional sum of 500*l.* was raised for completing the loan of 5,000*l.* sanctioned for the Grays Hill reservoir under Act 13 of 1888. In St. Kitts-Nevis 9,000*l.* was placed to the credit of the Nevis waterworks loan, authorised under Ordinance No. 8 of 1888, and in Dominica a loan of 13,000*l.* was arranged under the Road Loan Act 14 of 1888.

The following table, which was prepared for me by the Auditor General, gives details for each Presidency:—

Assets.

Presidency.	Cash in hand.	Sums due.	Sums invested.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Antigua - - -	9,194 0 5	1,643 18 10	4,466 8 2	15,295 7 5
St. Kitts-Nevis - -	10,459 10 8½	110 8 11	11,321 11 2	21,891 16 9½
Dominica - - -	2,216 15 6	378 1 9	4,489 15 5½	7,084 12 8½
Montserrat - - -	681 4 9½	241 4 7	173 0 0	1,095 9 4½
Virgin Islands - - -	0 0 0¾	22 6 9	—	22 6 9¾
Total - -	22,551 11 5¾	2,387 0 10	20,450 14 9½	45,389 7 1¼

Liabilities.

Presidency.	Loans.	Deposits.	Due for Money Orders.	Due to Crown Agents.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Antigua - - -	25,871 0 0	1,311 18 4½	13 16 4	—
St. Kitts-Nevis - -	11,900 0 0	14,060 10 11½	—	44 18 7
Dominica - - -	26,400 0 0	340 0 7	119 12 4½	—
Montserrat - - -	3,900 0 0	—	—	—
Virgin Islands - -	—	401 2 9	—	91 17 6
Total - -	68,071 0 0	16,113 13 8	133 8 8½	136 16 1

(*continued.*)

Presidency.	Due to Federal Government.	Miscellaneous Accounts.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Antigua - - -	—	—	27,196 14 8½
St. Kitts-Nevis - -	241 0 0½	6,192 18 2½	32,446 7 9½
Dominica - - -	78 2 4½	95 5 11	27,033 1 3
Montserrat - - -	—	—	3,900 0 0
Virgin Islands - -	277 9 6	284 13 5	1,055 3 2
Total - -	603 11 11	6,572 17 6½	91,631 6 11

4.—PUBLIC WORKS.

16,496*l.* is shown as expended under this head. The repairs, &c., to the public roads cost 7,557*l.*, or nearly one half the total expenditure, while the current repairs to the public buildings nearly absorbed the balance. 12,089*l.* may be looked upon as recurrent expenditure and the balance as extraordinary.

In Antigua Wilikies reservoir was completed at a total cost of 919*l.* and an additional reservoir to hold 2,800,000 gallons was under construction at Gray's Hill. The latter reservoir is for the supply of the city of St. John's.

5.—LEGISLATION.

Between them the six Legislatures of the Colony passed 58 Bills. Eleven of them had reference to the expenditure of the Colony and five were needed to substitute in the laws of the Colony one word for another, viz., the term "Commissioner" for the term "President."

The bankruptcy laws were consolidated and the Coroners Acts amended. The law with regard to neglect of infants was amended and extended. In Montserrat export duty was abolished and in the other Presidencies several matters of local importance were dealt with.

The Federal or general Legislative Council which met at St. Kitts on the 4th May and adjourned after seven days passed 14 Acts. The Antigua Council passed 11, the St. Kitts-Nevis 13, the Dominica Assembly 6, and the Montserrat and Virgin Islands Councils 11 and 3 respectively.

6.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

The principal movements and changes were as follows:—

Mr. Frederick Evans, C.M.G., relieved Captain Maling as Colonial Secretary of the Colony and Island Secretary of Antigua on the 8th March. The term "President" having been changed to the term "Commissioner," Captain Spencer-Churchill and Mr. E. H. Baynes were appointed Commissioners of St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat respectively. Mr. W. H. Whyham was appointed to act as President of Dominica and Mr. F. Spencer-Wigley was appointed to act as Commissioner of St. Kitts-Nevis. Mr. Thomas Baynes was appointed first puisne judge vice Judge Pemberton deceased. Mr. C. R. Tyser resigned the office of Attorney-General and Mr. C. H. Beard was appointed to that of Solicitor-General. Mr. F. W. Watkins was appointed Inspector of Schools. Doctors Branch, Rat, and Armstrong were appointed Government medical officers.

The Governor was on leave of absence from 5th January to 25th January and from 16th September to 17th November, when Captain Maling and Mr. Evans respectively administered the general government of the Colony.

7.—EDUCATION.

In 1889 the average attendance at the primary schools was 6,906, and there were 12,573 names on the books of the schools, the corresponding numbers for the preceding year being 7,048 and 12,773. The slight decrease in 1889 is due to the inclemency of the weather and to a more rigid system of registration.

The number of schools examined was 112 as against 44 in 1875 and 112 in 1888.

Owing to the changes in the inspectorate few changes were effected, but reports suggesting radical reforms in the existing system which had been in force since 1874 were prepared and submitted for the consideration of the Government. The introduction of compulsory education, the raising of the status and qualifications of the teachers, and the establishment of a pupil-teacher's system were among the questions discussed in those reports.

Statement showing the Number and Denomination of the Schools in each Presidency.

Presidency.	Government.	Anglican.	R. Catholic.	Wesleyan.	Moravian.	Undenominational.	Total.
Antigua	—	16	—	10	12	1	39
St. Kitts	—	10	1	9	6	—	26
Nevis	—	5	—	5	—	—	10
Dominica	13	2	4	3	—	—	22
Montserrat	—	6	1	3	—	1	11
Virgin Islands	—	2	—	2	—	—	4
	13	41	6	32	18	2	112

Statement showing the Average Attendance, &c., of each Presidency during 1889.

Presidency.	Number on Roll.	Average attendance.	School Fees.	Government Contributions.	Voluntary Contributions.	Expenditure of each Island.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Antigua	4,253	2,285	234 6 1	1,075 2 0	424 3 0	1,733 11 1
St. Kitts	3.136	1,778	111 15 9	773 6 0	290 4 7	1,175 6 4
Nevis	1,489	795	62 5 0	336 1 0	114 5 0	512 11 0
Dominica	1,926	1,026	83 2 5	848 8 8	54 3 9	985 14 10
Montserrat	1,445	850	61 0 10	339 9 0	119 15 9	520 5 7
Virgin Islands	324	173	10 8 7	96 10 0	106 16 1	213 14 8
Total	12,573	6,906	563 18 8	3,468 16 8	1,109 8 2	5,141 3 6

In the above table are included in Dominica, 13 Government schools, the teachers of which receive fixed salaries.

Under a local Act of 1882 the Antigua Grammar School, which was founded in 1884, is assisted by a grant of 200*l.* a year for 10 years. Besides the grammar school there are several other schools for secondary education in Antigua, among them being the Coke Memorial College, established in 1887 by the West Indian Wesleyan Conference.

In the Coke College there is a class for Kindergarten instruction.

At the Cambridge local examinations, a centre for which was in 1888 established at Antigua, 15 candidates (12 boys and three girls) were presented, and of these 11 were successful.

Many of the teachers of the primary schools receive their training at the Mico College, which was established in 1837. In the last 17 years 131 students have been trained. The institution, which since 1878 has been aided by a Government grant of 200*l.* is conducted on undenominational principles and is examined annually by the Inspector of Schools.

8.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The returns in the blue book give the value of the gross imports as 416,215*l.* and that of the exports as 674,925*l.*, but from these figures is excluded the value of the internal trade, or trade between the islands forming the Colony, so that to obtain a fair comparison between the 1888 returns in which the internal trade for the year is included and the 1889 returns we must add to the latter imports to the value of 12,764*l.* and exports to the value of 14,858*l.*

With these additions the value of the imports in 1889 appear as 428,979*l.* as against 405,210*l.* in 1888 and that of the exports as 689,783*l.* as against 509,709*l.*, the imports showing an increase of 23,769*l.* and the exports an increase of 180,074*l.*

The increase in imports is really larger than is here shown, the value of some items in the 1888 returns for St. Kitts-Nevis having been over estimated and having unduly increased the imports for that year by some 14,000*l.*

Each Presidency of the Colony participated in the prosperity of the year. In Antigua there was an increase of 7,995*l.* in the imports and of 67,500*l.* in the exports. There was an increase of 3,100*l.* in alcoholic liquors, of 2,900*l.* in machinery, and of 3,100*l.* in agricultural manures. In haberdashery there was a falling off. The export of sugar increased 62,143*l.* and of molasses 5,836*l.*

In St. Kitts-Nevis there was really an increase of about 20,000*l.* in the imports, but owing to the value of flour having been estimated at 17*s.* 6*d.* in 1889 and at 25*s.* in 1888, this item is about 10,000*l.*, less in apparent value; a similar deduction of 4,351*l.* has to be made from the 1888 valuation of tallow, &c. This difference of calculation (14,351*l.*), added to a falling off in haberdashery (800*l.*), in salted provisions (1,500*l.*), and in grain (2,000*l.*), reduces the apparent increase to 4,000*l.*

In the exports there was an increase of 106,000*l.*, sugar having increased 99,000*l.* and molasses 6,800*l.*

In Dominica there was an increase of about 8,000*l.* in the imports and of over 5,000*l.* in the exports. In the imports the increase was general, wood being the only item in which the increase was noticeable. The cocoa and coffee exports increased by nearly 3,000*l.*

In Montserrat the increase of 3,500*l.* in the imports was general, as was also the increase of 520*l.* in the exports.

The Virgin Islands obtained an increase of 350*l.* in the imports and of 970*l.* in the exports.

In the trade between the Presidencies there was an increase of 1,182*l.* in the imports and of 1,311*l.* in the exports. The imports from the United Kingdom increased 17,000*l.*, but the exports thereto decreased 1,600*l.*

From British North America we received 1,800*l.* more imports and to this country we sent 14,368*l.* more exports.

There was an increase of 1,500*l.* in the imports from Barbados and a small increase of 100*l.* in the exports thereto.

From the United States we received 4,400*l.* less imports, but to them our exports were largely increased, 545,285*l.* having been sent in 1889 as against 377,693*l.* in 1888. Comparative statements showing the imports and exports of each Presidency are appended.

Principal Articles of Import.

Principal Articles.	1888.	1889.	1889.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Alcoholic liquors	9,837	17,973	8,136	—
Boots and shoes	8,001	8,437	436	—
Cottons, woollens, and linens (unmade)	60,187	61,794	1,607	—
Grain	18,092	16,703	—	1,389
Haberdashery and millinery	26,549	23,442	—	3,107
Hardware	13,637	16,171	2,534	—
Machinery	4,433	10,706	6,273	
Manures	11,319	17,715	6,396	—
Oilmeal	5,707	6,068	361	—
Provisions:—				
Breadstuffs	69,903	59,788	—	10,115
Salted and dried	56,363	58,919	2,556	—
Groceries	7,146	9,823	2,677	—
Tallow and oils	14,566	11,896	—	2,670
Tobacco	4,566	5,765	1,199	—
Wood shooks, &c.	27,170	32,110	4,940	—
Other articles	56,152	58,905	2,753	—
Total Foreign Trade	393,628	416,215	39,868	17,281
Internal Trade	11,582	12,764	1,182	—
	405,210	428,979	41,050	17,281

Net increase, 23,769*l.*

Value of Imports into each Presidency of the Colony in 1889.

Articles.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Mont-serrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Alcoholic liquors - -	5,256	9,147	2,934	540	96	17,973
Boots and shoes - - -	3,584	2,875	1,513	406	59	8,437
Cottons, woollens and linens (unmade) - - -	19,367	25,326	11,976	4,779	346	61,794
Grain - - - -	8,812	6,817	776	195	103	16,703
Habardashery and millinery -	9,705	9,792	2,535	1,390	20	23,442
Hardware - - -	6,258	6,582	1,801	1,456	74	16,171
Machinery - - -	5,150	4,592	497	467	—	10,706
Manures - - - -	7,507	7,317	2,711	180	—	17,715
Oilmeal - - - -	1,770	4,011	131	156	—	6,068
Provisions:—						
Bread stuffs - - -	23,732	25,965	6,153	2,563	1,375	59,788
Salted and dried - -	23,776	23,403	7,101	4,289	250	58,819
Groceries - - -	4,382	4,069	1,003	322	47	9,823
Tallow and oils - - -	3,702	4,041	3,134	868	151	11,896
Tobacco - - - -	1,911	2,172	1,353	277	52	5,765
Wood shooks, &c. - -	10,892	16,985	1,749	2,167	317	32,110
Other articles - - -	21,823	23,805	10,287	2,685	405	59,005
	157,627	176,899	55,654	22,740	3,295	416,215
Internal Trade - -	8,160	896	1,575	2,104	29	12,764
	165,787	177,795	57,229	24,844	3,324	428,979

Principal Articles of Export.

Articles.		1888.	1889.	1889.	
				Increase.	Decrease.
Fruits and fruit juices	£	18,868	19,750	882	—
Cocoa and coffee	Lbs.	526,565	702,611	176,046	—
	£	8,841	11,797	2,956	—
Sugar - -	Tons	37,386	41,311	3,925	—
	£	396,866	555,970	159,104	—
Molasses - -	Puns.	15,562	17,024	1,462	—
	£	49,304	63,729	14,425	—

Articles.		1888.	1889.	1889.	
				Increase.	Decrease.
Rum - -	Proof galls.	59,633	48,518	—	11,115
	£	2,861	2,470	—	391
Other articles produced in the Colony.		9,216	13,340	4,124	—
Foreign produce re-exported -		10,206	7,869	—	2,337
		496,162	674,925	181,491	2,728
Internal trade - -		13,547	14,858	1,311	—
		509,709	689,783	182,802	2,728

Net increase 180,074*l.*

Principal Articles of Produce exported from each Presidency of the Colony in 1889.

Article.		Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
Fruits and fruit juices	£	2,040	549	8,331	8,745	85	19,750
Coffee and cocoa	Lbs.	—	320	702,291	—	—	702,611
	£	—	16	11,781	—	—	11,797
Sugar - -	Tons	17,050	19,967	2,530	1,754	10	41,311
	£	223,007	298,364	18,967	15,428	204	555,970
Molasses - -	Puns.	8,842	7,128	559	495	—	17,024
	£	34,203	27,236	1,258	1,032	—	63,729
Rum - -	Proof galls.	60	47,548	784	120	—	48,518
	£	4	2,395	59	12	—	2,470
Other articles. Produce of Colony.		655	2,504	5,001	1,345	3,835	13,340
Foreign produce re-exported -		807	6,632	391	29	10	7,869
		260,716	337,697	45,787	26,591	4,134	674,925
Internal trade - -		5,806	5,506	1,538	1,801	207	14,858
		266,522	343,203	47,325	28,392	4,341	689,783

Trade of 1888 *and* 1889.

Countries.	Imports.		Exports.	
	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	184,150	201,159	59,970	54,393
British North America - -	15,931	17,890	36,965	51,333
Barbados - - -	26,757	28,390	2,494	2,600
United States - - -	147,531	143,153	377,693	545,285

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

9. *Shipping.*

The following is a comparative statement of the tonnage cleared and entered in each of the Presidencies in 1888 and 1889.

Presidency.	1888.	1889.
Antigua.	Tonnage.	Tonnage.
British - - - -	347,245	359,533
Foreign - - - -	19,244	26,431
St. Kitts-Nevis.		
British - - - -	392,480	368,431
Foreign - - - -	18,462	19,717
Dominica.		
British - - - -	272,150	294,862
Foreign - - - -	2,321	1,004
Montserrat.		
British - - - -	311,768	307,417
Foreign - - - -	1,576	1,306
Virgin Islands.		
British - - - -	8,718	8,358
Foreign - - - -	404	148
Total for the Colony British	1,332,361	1,338,681
Total for the Colony Foreign	42,007	48,506
Total - -	1,374,368	1,387,187

10.—HOSPITALS.

In the eight hospitals in the Colony there were, at the end of 1888, 453 patients; 2,423 were admitted during 1889, making a total of 2,876 under treatment. Of these 1,256 were discharged cured, 666 relieved, and 11 not improved. 401, or about one in seven, died, leaving 612 inmates at the end of the year.

The following statement gives the detail for each Presidency:—

Presidency.		Remaining at end of 1888.	Admitted in 1889.	Discharged			Died.	Remaining at end of 1889.
				Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.		
Antigua (1)	Male -	43	516	263	151	—	101	44
	Female	64	496	141	234	—	122	63
St. Kitts (2)	Male -	82	491	233	131	—	69	140
	Female	71	356	173	98	2	34	120
Nevis (1)	Male -	33	53	39	6	2	16	23
	Female	14	38	14	5	—	13	20
Dominica (2)	Male -	47	227	172	19	2	13	68
	Female	27	124	82	12	2	11	44

Leeward Islands.

Presidency.		Remaining at end of 1888.	Admitted in 1889.	Discharged			Died.	Remaining at end of 1889.
				Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.		
Montserrat (1)	Male -	26	30	13	3	1	8	31
	Female	32	35	15	4	2	10	36
Virgin Islands (1)	Male -	8	17	11	3	—	4	23
	Female	6	40					
Total -	-	453	2,423	1,256	666	11	401	612

11.—Lunatic Asylums.

The two asylums in Antigua receive patients from all the islands. That at Rat Island contained 56 patients at the end of 1888, admitted 51, and discharged 38, leaving 69 at the end of 1889; of the 38 shown as discharged, 17 died, 12 were sent to the Ridge Asylum as convalescent, and nine were discharged as temporarily cured.

At the Ridge Asylum there were 36 patients at the end of 1888; 12 were received from Rat Island in 1889; 11 were discharged as temporarily cured, and one died, leaving 36 at the end of 1889.

At the Leper Asylum, which forms an adjunct of the Lunatic Asylum at Rat Island, there were 27 inmates at the end of 1888, six were admitted in 1889, four died, and one deserted, leaving 28 at the end of 1889.

I append tables showing the number of patients received into the Lunatic Asylum from each Presidency in 1889 and the cost of maintaining the institutions.

Rat Island.

—	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Montserrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Remaining at end of 1888 -	11	17	1	5	9	2	2	5	1	3	24	32
Admitted in 1889 - -	10	12	7	9	2	3	1	3	4	—	24	27
Total - -	21	29	8	14	11	5	3	8	5	3	48	59
Sent to the Ridge - -	6	1	—	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	8	4
	15	28	8	12	10	5	3	7	4	3	40	55
Discharged - - -	1	3	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	6
	14	25	6	10	10	5	3	6	4	3	37	49
Died - - - -	3	5	—	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	6	11
Remaining at end of 1889 -	11	20	6	8	9	3	2	5	3	2	31	38

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Ridge.

—	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Mont-serrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Remaining at end of 1888 -	10	14	4	1	4	—	1	1	1	—	20	16
Admitted in 1889 - -	6	1	—	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	8	4
Total - - -	16	15	4	3	5	—	1	2	2	—	28	20
Discharged - - -	5	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	7	4
	11	11	4	3	4	—	1	2	1	—	21	16
Died - - - -	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Remaining at end of 1889 -	10	11	4	3	4	—	1	2	1	—	20	16

Expenses of Maintenance.

—	Provisions and Necessaries.	Clothing, Bedding, &c.	Salaries.	Current Repairs.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rat Island - -	740	79	367	24	66	1,276
Ridge - -	438	51	219	11	37	756
Leper - -	266	46	61	—	6	379
Total -	1,444	176	647	35	109	2,411

12.—POOR HOUSES.

In Antigua there were 68 paupers in the poor-house at the end of 1888 (21 male, 47 female) ; 58 (26 male, 32 female) were admitted during 1889; 65 were discharged and one died, leaving 60 inmates at the end of 1889. The cost of the poor-house was 871*l.* (salaries 170*l.*, provisions, &c. 638*l.*, clothing, &c. 64*l.*).

Outdoor relief was given to 65 males and 201 females, among whom 487*l.* were distributed.

In the Dominica Poor-house there were 98 paupers, at the beginning of 1889 ; during the year 129 were admitted, making a total of 225 for the year. Of this number 91 were discharged or left relieved and 28 died, leaving 106 paupers on the list at the end of the year.

One of these paupers, a female, has been an inmate of the institution for 30 years.

In the Virgin Islands the hospital serves as a poor-house and contains eight inmates over 70 years of age and four over 80.

13.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The table given below shows the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals in each Presidency during

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

the year. From this it will be seen that of the 22,139 offences reported to the police, 21,608 were brought before the magistrates, who dealt summarily with 20,329 of them, 121 cases were disposed of by the superior courts, and 819 were pending at the end of the year.

Of the cases disposed of summarily about three sevenths only were convicted, while there were convictions in seven twelfths of the cases heard in the superior courts.

Of the summary convictions upwards of one quarter were offences against the person, rather more than one eighth were against property and nearly two thirds were miscellaneous cases.

Of the convictions before the superior courts half were for offences against the person and half, with the exception of two cases, were for offences against property.

As compared with 1888 there was a considerable increase in the number of cases brought before the magistrates. In Antigua the increase was 829, in St. Kitts-Nevis 137, in Dominica 6,550, in Montserrat 64. In the Virgin Islands there was no increase. The total increase was 7,580.

—	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Totals.		
1. Offences reported to the police - -	6,347	5,617	9,562	613	—	22,139		
2. Apprehended by the police or summoned before magistrates -	6,278	5,558	8,991	610	171	21,608		
3. Summary convictions:								
1. Offences against the person -	880	637	275	89	28	1,909		
2. Prædial larceny -	91	108	49	31	5	284		
3. Offences against property other than prædial larceny. - -	214	440	140	54	14	862		
4. Other offences -	1,421	1,554	2,719	106	39	5,839	8,894	
4. Convictions in the superior courts:								
1. Offences against the person -	13	16	4	—	—	33		
2. Prædial larceny -	—	4	—	—	—	4		
3. Offences against property other than prædial larceny - -	12	8	3	1	2	26		
4. Other offences -	2	—	—	—	—	2	65	8,959
5. Persons acquitted:								
1. In the inferior courts - -	3,173	2,779	5,090	318	74	11,435		
2. In the superior courts - -	24	12	18	1	1	56		11,491
6. Cases pending—								
1. In the inferior courts:	—	79	693	7	6	785		
2. In the superior courts:	16	13	—	3	2	34		819
								21,269

14.—GAOLS.

The Colony has six common gaols and to these were committed 1,845 persons, 1,079 men, 712 women, and 54 juveniles; 1,699 underwent penal imprisonment; 241 had been once previously convicted, 213 twice, and 426 thrice or more. Only three men were sentenced to five years or more, while 1,205 were sentenced to three months or less.

There were no escapes from any of the gaols. There was one death in the Antigua gaol and there were two in the St. Kitts gaol.

The punishments numbered 208, of which 146 took place in Antigua, where all prisoners sentenced to six months' imprisonment or more are confined.

There was only one case of flogging, and this was at Antigua.

The total annual cost of the six gaols is given as 4,307*l.*

15.—METEOROLOGICAL.

The figures in the annexed table are taken from the register kept at the public library in Antigua and are only approximately correct.

The hottest months were July and August and the coldest February and December, but owing to the absence of maximum and minimum thermometer the highest and lowest temperatures are not known.

The highest barometrical reading recorded was 30·22 inches on January 30th–31st and the lowest 29·66 inches on September 2nd at 5 p.m. (it probably was a little lower at 8 p.m.)

This low barometer occurred at the time that a storm was passing, which, later, developed full hurricane force.

From the data obtained it would appear that this hurricane originated about 400 miles east of Martinique, the centre passing between Antigua and Guadeloupe, probably crossing Montserrat, thence to St. Kitts, increasing in energy as it progressed.

It passed S.W. of St. Thomas and on September 4th was in latitude 20° N. and raged as a storm of great intensity off Cape Hatteras and Boston from September 8th to 14th.

In St. Kitts the s.s. "Roraima" went ashore and became a total wreck, and the schooner "Circe" (three-masted iron vessel) went down at anchor. No lives were lost.

The rainfall for the year is recorded as 89·06 inches, but the average of 50 stations was 73·59 inches; this being greatly in excess of the average, as will be seen by reference to the table given below :—

1889.	Thermometer.		Barometer.		Rainfall.
	Dry 9 a.m.	3 p.m.	9 a.m.	3 p.m.	
January - -	79	82	30·11	30·11	2·83
February - -	79	80	30·14	30·11	5·36
March - - -	80	82	30·13	30·15	4·03
April - - -	82	82½	30·13	30·12	8·27
May - - -	81½	82½	30·12	30·11	12·29
June - - -	81	78	30·13	30·15	17·51
July - - -	86	87½	30.13	30·14	4·18
August - -	86	87	30·11	30·12	7·08
September - -	81	82½	30·10	30·12	3·71
October - -	83	83	30·09	30·10	6·01
November - -	80	84	30·12	30·08	4·56
December - -	77	79	30·07	29·93	3·23
					89·06

Average Rainfall in Antigua since 1874.

Year.	Number of Stations.	Inches.
1874 - - - -	41	31·16
1875 - - - -	40	28·78
1876 - - - -	36	41·98
1877 - - - -	38	49·05
1878 - - - -	53	47·11
1879 - - - -	52	61·50
1880 - - -	46	49·69
1881 - - - -	44	53·75
1882 - - - -	45	33·04
1883 - - - -	56	55·51
1884 - - - -	56	43 98
1885 - - - -	53	43·39
1886 - - - -	55	47·78
1887 - - - -	50	43·68
1888 - - - -	47	44·23
1889 - - - -	50	73·59

16.—SAVINGS BANKS.

The sum of 55,694*l.* remained in the five savings banks of the Colony at the end of 1889 as against a sum of 50,074*l.* at the end of 1888. The number of depositors increased from 1,558 to 1,740 and the amount invested from 41,536*l.* to 46,386*l.*

Leeward Islands.

I append tables giving the detail of the deposits in each bank :—

Presidency.	No. of Depositors.		Amount of Deposits.		Amount invested.	
	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
			£	£	£	£
Antigua - - - - -	1,050	1,163	35,349	38,995	27,533	30,297
St. Kitts - - - - -	235	260	6,083	6,800	5,995	6,595
Nevis - - - - -	65	70	2,719	3,120	2,650	3,063
Dominica - - - - -	130	155	3,376	4,077	3,150	3,950
Montserrat - - - -	78	92	2,547	2,702	2,208	2,481
Virgin Islands - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - -	1,558	1,740	50,074	55,694	41,536	46,386

Presidency.	Under 1*l*.		1*l*. to 10*l*.		10*l*. to 20*l*.		20*l*. to 50*l*.		50*l*. to 100*l*.		Over 100*l*.	
	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
Antigua -	294	329	419	465	123	111	85	104	52	56	83	98
St. Kitts -	41	38	80	107	38	36	30	38	17	11	23	30
Nevis - -	6	4	20	21	11	10	10	12	4	9	14	14
Dominica -	11	23	53	64	24	19	20	26	12	9	10	14
Montserrat -	16	18	28	39	9	9	7	10	6	3	12	13
Virgin Islands -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total -	368	412	600	696	205	185	152	190	91	88	142	169

FRED. EVANS,
Colonial Secretary of the
Leeward Islands.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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No. 22.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1890.

(In continuation of Colonial Report (Annual) No. 1.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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No.	Colony.	Year.
87	Maufoundland	1888
88	Newritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	”
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	”
91	Grenada	”
92	Bermuda	”
93	St. Vincent	1888
94	St. Vincent	1889
95	Bahamas	”
96	St. Lucia	”
97	British Bechuanaland	1888–9
98	Turks and Caicos	1889
99	Gambia	”
100	Straits Settlements	”
101	St. Kitts-Nevis	1886
102	Basutoland (Governor's Visit)	1890
103	British New Guinea	1888–9
104	Natal	1889
105	Malta	”
106	British Guiana	”
107	Barbados	”
108	Trinidad and Tobago	”
109	Western Australia	”
110	Gold Coast (Agriculture)	1890
111	Labuan	1889
112	Jamaica	”
113	Falkland Islands	”
114	Basutoland	1889–90
115	Sierra Leone	1889
116	Fiji	”
117	Hong Kong	”
118	St. Helena	”

NEW SERIES OF COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
1	British Honduras	1889
2	Mauritius	”
3	British Bechuanaland	1889–90
4	Victoria	1889
5	Newfoundland	”
6	British New Guinea	1889–90
7	St. Vincent	1890
8	Bermuda	”
9	Leeward Islands	1889
10	St. Lucia	1890
11	Bahamas	”
12	Turks and Caicos Islands	”
13	Gibraltar	”
14	Zululand	”
15	Sierra Leone	”
16	Barbados	”
17	Falkland Islands	”
18	Labuan	”
19	British Honduras	”
20	Basutoland	1890–91
21	Trinidad and Tobago	1890

No. 22.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

[In continuation of Colonial Report (Annual) No. 9.]

Sir W. F. HAYNES SMITH to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Antigua,
August 12, 1891.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1890, together with the report of the Colonial Secretary thereon.

2. The record of the year shows that some substantial progress has been made in the Colony, and that there is the commencement of a movement to turn to advantage some of the exceptional advantages possessed by these Islands.

3. The Leeward Islands, although offering many remunerative investments for capital, are still undeveloped. They must become the market gardens for the United States and Canada, and their proximity to the large markets and their fertile soil would make numerous cultural industries most profitable undertakings. Good land, suitable for cultivation, can be obtained on the most favourable terms, and the conditions of life are pleasant. The Colonial Government are endeavouring to still further improve these conditions, and to make the land easy of access. They are also endeavouring to bring the Islands into regular communication both with the United States and Canada, so as to afford easy and rapid means of access to the unlimited markets of the Northern Continent.

4. A considerable sum has been spent on the various public works and undertakings for these objects. One result of this expenditure is that the labouring population have eaten more food. The returns show that the amount of meat eaten, principally in the form of salted beef and pork, has increased per head.

5. The total amount of revenue raised from all sources, including all local charges as well as general taxation, was 18*s.* 4*d.* per head of the population, and the expenditure was at the rate of 17*s.* 7*d.* per head, exclusive of sums raised on loan, but including all charges for interest and sinking fund.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. F. HAYNES SMITH.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Antigua,
July 28, 1891.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1890, together with my report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. EVANS,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
Sir W. F. Haynes Smith, K.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

1.—REVENUE.

The revenue for the year is returned at 119,359*l.* It shows a surplus of 5,160*l.* over the year's expenditure, which, exclusive of the extraordinary expenses incurred upon public works, amounted to 114,199*l.*; it was 7,105*l.* more than the revenue of 1889, and 14,917*l.* more than was received in 1888. From reference to the following tables it will be seen that, as in former years, the increase was mainly due to "customs" under which 81,546*l.* was collected in 1890, as against 75,783*l.* in 1889.

In each of the Presidencies there was an increase in the customs receipts, and with the exception of the Virgin Islands, where the small revenue was affected by the introduction of Federal postage stamps, each Presidency collected more revenue than it did in 1889.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of REVENUE COLLECTED in each PRESIDENCY of the COLONY in the Years 1889 and 1890.

Heads of Revenue.	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.	
	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Customs - - - -	31,377 5 6	33,137 13 1	26,585 3 7	28,472 15 9	12,213 0 0	13,900 4 5
2. Port, harbour, and lighthouses dues -	1,237 7 7	1,575 5 5	3,404 14 4	3,296 15 5	839 0 4	902 15 4
3. Licenses, excise - - -	3,330 19 1	6,008 19 8	7,044 12 7	8,359 6 9	5,819 4 4	5,641 15 9
4. Fees of court - - -	5,866 10 3	3,459 10 2	1,139 0 6	1,308 18 9	446 14 5	510 18 0
5. Post office - - - -	1,027 15 2	1,729 1 4	905 8 4	1,258 17 2	444 0 8	498 1 4
6. Rents of Government property -	200 0 0	200 4 8	459 6 6	58 14 4	—	52 18 7
7. Interest - - - -	202 6 0	180 0 0	153 13 2	63 6 3	21 14 7	21 5 0
8. Miscellaneous receipts - -	166 7 2	52 7 9	313 4 6	136 15 1	40 13 9	46 8 5
Total - - - -	43,408 10 9	46,334 2 1	40,005 3 6	42,955 9 6	19,824 8 1	21,574 6 10
9. Land sales - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - - - -	43,408 10 9	46,334 2 1	40,005 3 6	42,955 9 6	19,824 8 1	21,574 6 10
Arrears of 1888 - - -	—	—	28 17 1	—	671 13 2	—
Total revenue - - -	43,408 10 9	46,334 2 1	40,034 0 7	42,955 9 6	20,496 1 3	21,574 6 10

Comparative Statement of Revenue collected in each Presidency of the Colony in the Years 1889 and 1890—*continued.*

Heads of Revenue.	Montserrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total for Colony.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1890.	1890.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1. Customs - - -	4,470 14 1	4,795 11 7	1,136 16 2	1,239 17 8	75,782 19 5	81,546 2 6	5,763 3 1	—
2. Port, harbour, and lighthouses dues - - - -	13 3 9	9 7 3	24 7 6	31 9 4	5,518 13 6	5,815 12 9	296 19 3	—
3, Licenses, excise - -	1,493 18 1	1,352 8 7	295 5 4	263 11 11	20,519 10 7	21,626 2 8	1,106 12 1	—
4. Fees of court - - -	214 3 9	265 4 5	92 6 9	62 17 6	5,223 4 6	5,598 8 10	1,375 4 4	—
5. Post office - - -	210 17 3	273 19 11	225 5 7	152 19 4	2,813 7 0	3,912 19 1	1,098 12 1	—
6. Rents of Government property -	—	—	0 10 0	3 10 10	659 16 6	315 8 5	—	344 8 1
7. Interest - - -	—	—	—	—	377 13 9	264 11 3	—	113 2 6
8. Miscellaneous receipts -	11 12 1	36 0 1	17 6 3	7 18 6	549 3 9	279 9 10	—	269 13 11
Total - - - -	6,414 9 1	6,732 11 10	1,791 17 7	1,762 5 1	111,444 9 0	119,358 15 4	8,641 10 10	727 4 6
9. Land sales - - -	—	—	96 19 5	—	96 19 5	—	—	96 19 5
Total - - - -	6,414 9 1	6,732 11 10	1,888 17 0	1,762 5 1	111,541 8 5	119,358 15 4	8,641 10 10	824 3 11
Arrears of 1888 - -	11 15 10	—	—	—	712 6 1	—	—	712 6 1
Total revenue - - -	6,426 4 11	6,732 11 10	1,888 17 0	1,762 5 1	112,253 14 6	119,358 15 4	8,641 10 10	1,536 10 0

Net increase, 1890, 7,105*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*

Presidency.	1888.		1889.		1890.	
	Revenue.	Customs.	Revenue.	Customs.	Revenue.	Customs.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua - -	39,522	28,116	43,409	31,377	46,334	33,137
St. Kitts-Nevis -	40,069	27,773	40,034	26,585	42,956	28,472
Dominica - -	17,450	8,594	20,496	12,213	21,574	13,900
Montserrat - -	5,851	3,045	6,426	4,471	6,733	,795
Virgin Islands -	1,550	715	1,889	1,137	1,762	1,239
Total for the Colony -	104,442	68,243	112,254	75,783	119,359	81,543

2.—Expenditure.

11,962*l.* is returned as having been expended during 1890 upon special and exceptional public works, and, irrespective of this sum, which I leave to be commented on under the head "Public Works," the year's disbursements amount to 114,199*l.*

No less than 22,700*l.* was expended upon medical relief, while the cost of the prisons, police, and of the administration of justice is given as 18,755*l.* The collection of, and accounting for, the revenue cost 7,135*l.*, the ordinary and recurrent expenditure upon public works is shown as 14,071*l.*, and the charges on account of the public debt, came to 8,020*l.*

The following statement shows the expenses of each Presidency during the year:—

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the EXPENDITURE in each PRESIDENCY of the COLONY in the years 1889 and 1890.

Heads of Expenditure.	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.	
	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Charges on account public debt	1,602 3 0	3,008 13 7	698 3 2	1,119 0 0	1,197 4 4	3,646 16 11
2 Pensions	258 13 4	558 3 11	2,173 10 3	2,329 1 1	763 14 4	714 18 4
3. Legislature	75 0 0	75 0 0	100 0 0	100 0 0	51 7 6	50 17 0
4. Island Secretary (Commissioner)	162 19 7	163 16 5	776 16 3	792 7 8	754 8 11	793 2 3
5. Federal contribution	2,794 11 4	3,215 4 3	3,050 5 9	2,866 12 1	1,614 10 3	1,852 8 8
6. Treasury and customs	2,362 16 8	2,405 2 9	2,243 8 3	2,139 16 4	1,929 19 3	2,046 5 6
7. Audit	170 0 0	164 1 0	—	50 0 0	—	—
8. Port and marine	618 7 3	737 8 11	72 10 7	78 7 7	58 16 9	24 10 8
9. Registrar and Provost Marshal	957 14 10	853 4 4	721 18 6	721 19 2	570 12 4	618 0 11
Magistrates	1,055 0 0	1,099 7 2	1,834 14 5	1,720 13 9	542 11 6	548 9 11
10. Police	3,538 3 9	3,533 15 10	2,688 9 10	3,073 11 9	1,811 17 10	1,745 16 7
11. Prisons	1,849 1 1	1,769 12 2	1,521 12 3	1,433 19 10	653 9 9	775 17 7
12. Medical	2,235 7 8	2,246 17 8	2,009 8 6	2,071 18 10	926 13 0	1,337 17 7
13. Hospitals	6,749 18 7	6,713 4 6	4,987 15 10	5,937 17 4	2,564 15 11	2,580 6 0
14. Education	1,239 6 0	1,245 3 2	1,450 1 4	1,252 10 11	926 3 6	1,019 11 9
15. Ecclesiastical	671 18 8	679 4 9	789 5 0	720 8 9	—	—

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Comparative Statement of the Expenditure in each Presidency of the Colony in the years 1889 and 1890—*continued.*

Heads of Expenditure.	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.	
	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
16. Board of Health - - -	2,336 13 2	2,542 15 0	1,713 6 3	729 7 9	566 8 7	543 11 11
17. Registration and vaccination -	276 15 0	294 11 0	545 4 7	402 5 0	151 0 8	114 8 9
18. Public market - - -	195 12 8	201 8 4	63 19 6	62 17 2	15 19 0	23 19 8
19. Public library - - -	180 0 0	180 0 0	37 0 0	259 1 7	—	—
20. Laboratory - - -	629 9 7	470 7 11	—	—	—	—
21. Military - - - -	1,009 0 3	1,082 9 7	55 0 0	50 1 4	—	—
22. Miscellaneous - - -	620 3 9	1,889 13 7	591 9 10	1,101 6 5	927 3 10	945 5 10
23. Post Office - - - -	1,338 4 3	1,662 17 8	1,339 16 7	1,346 8 5	589 17 4	532 13 5
Telegraphs - - -	800 0 0	800 0 0	800 0 0	809 0 1	800 0 0	400 0 0
Telephones - - -	728 14 3	1,336 9 9	376 16 5	71 9 0	—	—
24. Public Works, Department -	1,067 11 5	1,175 15 6	782 13 7	816 2 4	526 5 4	557 6 1
25. „ „ recurrent - -	5,918 9 7	5,580 6 5	3,637 12 3	4,872 10 6	1,971 16 3	2,735 8 3
Total - -	41,441 15 8	45,684 15 3	35,060 18 10	36,928 15 8	19,914 16 2	23,607 10 0
26. Public works' extraordinary -	—	4,457 13 6	4,024 8 10	6,163 5 2	—	610 0 0
Total - -	41,441 15 8	50,142 8 9	39,085 7 8	43,092 0 10	19,914 16 2	24,217 10 0
Arrears of 1889 - - -	13 11 5	—	—	—	—	—
Total - - £	41,455 7 1	50,142 8 9	39,085 7 8	43,092 0 10	19,914 16 2	24,217 10 0

Comparative Statement of the Expenditure in each Presidency of the Colony in the years 1889 and 1890—*continued.*

Heads of Expenditure.	Montserrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total Colony.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1890.	1890.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Charges on account public debt	245 0 0	245 0 0	—	—	3,742 10 6	8,019 10 6	4,277 0 0	—
2. Pensions	337 7 1	233 12 4	134 16 2	134 16 2	3,668 1 2	3,970 11 10	302 10 8	—
3. Legislature	—	—	5 0 0	5 0 0	231 7 6	230 17 0	—	0 10 6
4. Island Secretary (Commissioner)	490 0 0	465 0 0	466 14 4	403 10 6	2,650 19 1	2,617 16 10	—	33 2 3
5. Federal contribution	538 3 5	617 8 11	174 15 10	198 15 2	8,172 6 7	8,750 10 1	578 3 6	—
6. Treasury and customs	266 0 1	378 8 3	158 1 8	165 13 7	6,960 5 11	7,135 6 5	175 0 6	—
7. Audit	—	—	—	—	170 0 0	214 1 0	44 1 0	—
8. Port and marine	—	13 15 8	—	—	749 14 7	854 2 10	104 8 3	—
9. Registrar and Provost Marshal	33 14 8	41 6 0	—	—	2,284 0 4	2,234 10 5	—	49 9 11
Magistrates	24 0 0	24 0 0	66 19 7	52 9 0	3,523 5 6	3,444 19 10	—	78 5 8
10. Police	358 10 10	256 7 6	32 12 6	48 4 11	8,429 14 9	8,757 16 0	328 1 3	—
11. Prisons	180 2 8	196 3 11	102 10 10	141 18 8	4,306 16 7	4,317 12 2	10 15 7	—
12. Medical	426 6 10	410 19 9	204 18 1	215 0 0	5,802 14 1	6,282 13 10	479 19 9	—
13. Hospitals	873 13 4	920 16 11	286 4 7	264 12 0	15,462 8 3	16,416 16 9	954 8 6	—
14. Education	339 9 0	339 9 0	91 4 0	101 16 0	4,046 3 10	3,958 10 10	—	87 15 0
15. Ecclesiastical	458 15 0	458 15 0	12 0 0	12 0 0	1,931 18 8	1,870 8 6	—	61 10 2

Comparative Statement of the Expenditure in each Presidency of the Colony in the years 1889 and 1890.—*continued.*

Heads of Expenditure.	Montserrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total Colony.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1890.	1890.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
16. Board of Health - -	123 10 2	80 18 8	—	—	4,739 18 2	3,896 13 4	—	843 4 10
17. Registration and vaccination -	62 13 8	85 15 8	25 13 9	14 1 0	1,061 7 7	911 1 5	—	150 6 2
18. Public market - - -	34 16 0	34 18 6	—	—	310 7 2	323 3 9	12 16 7	—
19. Public library - - -	25 0 0	50 0 0	—	—	242 0 0	489 1 7	247 1 7	—
20. Laboratory - - -	—	—	—	—	629 9 7	470 7 11	—	159 1 8
21. Military - - -	—	—	—	—	1,064 0 3	1,132 10 11	68 10 8	—
22. Miscellaneous - - -	183 19 0	127 16 6	70 0 11	67 0 0	2,392 17 4	4,131 2 4	1,738 5 0	—
23. Post Office - - -	183 5 2	92 15 2	80 14 1	22 13 11	3,531 17 5	3,657 5 7	125 8 2	—
Telegraphs - - -	—	—	—	—	2,400 0 0	2,009 0 1	—	390 19 11
Telephones - - -	—	—	—	—	1,105 10 8	1,407 18 9	302 8 1	—
24. Public Works Department -	55 0 0	74 2 3	—	—	2,431 10 4	2,623 6 2	191 15 10	—
25. „ „ recurrent - -	522 18 1	849 10 1	38 12 11	33 7 10	12,089 9 1	14,071 3 1	1,981 14 0	—
Total - -	5,762 5 0	6,097 0 1	1,950 19 3	1,880 18 9	104,130 14 11	114,198 19 9	11,922 8 11	1,854 4 1
26. Public works, extraordinary -	382 8 8	630 18 8	—	100 0 0	4,406 17 6	11,961 17 4	7,554 19 10	—
Total - -	6,144 13 8	6,727 18 9	1,950 19 3	1,980 18 9	108,537 12 5	126,160 17 1	19,477 8 9	1,854 4 1
Arrears of 1889 - -	—	—	—	—	13 11 5	—	—	13 11 5
Total - £	6,144 13 8	6,727 13 9	1,950 19 3	1,980 18 9	108,551 3 10	126,160 17 1	19,477 8 9	1,867 15 6

3.—PUBLIC DEBT.

Antigua received 600*l.* during the year on account of the Walling's Reservoir Loan, but as two debentures of 100*l.* each of the Savings Bank Loan were bought up, the total amount of the debt was increased by 400*l.* only.

In St. Kitts-Nevis the debt was increased by the transfer of 9,000*l.* from immigration funds to the Nevis Waterworks Loan.

Dominica paid off 2,300*l.* of her debt, but against this she received 17,000*l.* towards the Public Works Loan.

Montserrat paid off 100*l.* of the Waterworks Loan.

The total amount of the loans at the end of the year was 92,071*l.*, and for the gradual extinction of this sinking funds have been provided.

There was invested 18,767*l.* and to meet our immediate liabilities there was cash in hand to the amount of 15,033*l.*

4.—PUBLIC WORKS.

From the statements prepared by the Treasurers of the several Presidencies it would appear that in addition to the cost of the Public Works Departments, which is returned at 1,408*l.*, there was spent a sum of 26,033*l.* throughout the Colony upon public works. Of this amount 11,962*l.* was expended upon the alteration, maintenance, &c., of public buildings, upon repairs to roads, streets, and bridges &c., and may be termed annually recurrent expenditure; 14,071*l.* was spent upon the execution of works of an exceptional nature and upon securing land for the purposes of these works.

At Antigua the exceptional expenditure includes the purchase of between 600 and 700 acres of land of which the major portion has already been brought into use in connexion with the recently-established Botanical Station and Industrial School. 1,300*l.* was contributed towards the cost of a new steam launch received in 1891.

690*l.* was expended upon deepening and cleaning out some of the watercourses of the island, thus improving the sanitary condition of their neighbourhood, and some 1,200*l.* went towards the alterations and erection of the Skerretts Industrial and Reformatory School buildings which have during the present year been opened for the reception of youths.

At St. Kitts-Nevis the expenditure includes the cost of the erection of a Leper Asylum and of a new hospital (Pogson Hospital) at Sandy Point, the draining of the "Pond" Swamp, the paving of several large open drains to carry off the water during heavy rains and the extension of the telephone system over the Island of St. Kitts.

At Montserrat, with an expenditure of 630*l.*, the largest disbursement was on account of the improvement in the streets of

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Plymouth, but here, as at Dominica, where the "exceptional" expenditure is returned at 610*l.* only, many very important works were carried out from loans specially raised for such works.

No less than 36 bridges and large culverts were either erected or in process of erection at Dominica, roads were under construction in many parts of the island, and every effort was made to open up the interior of this most lovely and fertile island.

With regard to the "recurrent" expenditure of the 5,580*l.* put down for Antigua, three-fifths or 3,700*l.* went for repairs to the public roads, of which there are about 200 miles, 1,000*l.* for repairs, &c. to public buildings, and 1,000*l.* in a work which might more properly have come in the exceptional expenditure, namely, the construction of a new country reservoir (Willikie's).

At St. Kitts-Nevis, where the expenditure was 4,873*l.*, the public roads and bridges cost 2,637*l.*, alterations and repairs to public buildings about 1,265*l.*

At Dominica the expenditure was 2,735*l.*, the largest item being for roads, piers, and wharves (1,080*l.*).

Montserrat, out of the 849*l.* expended, spent 320*l.* upon a new bridge (Belham), and 350*l.* upon roads.

The expenditure in the Virgin Islands only amounted to 33*l.*, and was disbursed for repairs to public buildings.

5.—LEGISLATION.

There was good work done during the year. The General Legislative Council (Federal Council) sat at Antigua from the 1st to 11th February, and passed 19 Acts, of which three were reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure.

One of those reserved was an Act to amend the Constitution of the General Legislative Council, established by an Imperial Act of 1871 and amended by Colonial Acts of 1878 and 1882. The New Act increases the number of members from 20 to 24, and provides that the elective members, of whom there are 12, be elected direct to the Council by the constituencies, instead of being selected from the Local Councils by the elective members of such Councils. The qualifications for voters and members are lowered, and while power is given to the Council to legislate upon all subjects other than the levying of taxes, it is provided that no Bill granting money or altering the constitution of any of the legislatures shall be deemed to have passed the Council, if two-thirds of the elective members vote against it, unless the Governor declares the same to be of paramount importance to the public interest.

The Act to regulate the procedure at elections of members of Council, is the necessary outcome of the Constitution Bill.

It is practically the English Ballot Act of 1872 with certain modifications made to meet local requirements. This was also reserved.

An Act to enforce elementary education, which was the remaining one reserved, has been confirmed and brought into operation

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Under its provisions the Governor occupies the position of a Board of Education, and the Colonial Secretary that of secretary to such Board. Power is given to establish educational districts supervised by educational district officers, and to constitute Colonial schools where necessary. Every child between the ages of five and twelve years is compelled to attend school, the employment of any child under the age of nine years is absolutely prohibited, and the employment of a child of the age of nine years and upwards, who has not obtained a certificate of proficiency, is prohibited unless such child attends school daily for 2½ hours.

A scale of fees is fixed, but power is given to exempt parents from the payment of fees when, by reason of poverty, they are unable to pay them.

Of the remaining 16 Acts the most important were those which made provision for a regular steam service between the islands of the Colony, made uniform the stamps used throughout the Colony for postage rates and stamp duties, and prohibited the erection of telephones without license.

In the Local Legislatures, which passed between them 36 Acts or Ordinances, the following were of most importance, viz., that which provided for the conservation of a supply of fresh water and its distribution throughout the island of Antigua, that which provided for the establishment of a leper asylum at St. Kitts, and that which provided for the repair and preservation of the public roads in Montserrat.

6.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

There were not many changes of importance in the offices and appointments of the Colony. Mr. C. G. Walpole was appointed Attorney-General *vice* Mr. C. R. Tyser, resigned; two medical officers, Drs. Campbell and Cleveland, joined the staff. Mr. R. B. Roden was appointed a District Magistrate, Mr. W. H. Porter was sent from the Treasury at St. Kitts to be Treasurer at Dominica, and a Curator was appointed to each of the three botanical stations.

Mr. J. L. Lake who was transferred from the Magistracy of Anguilla to that of Dominica, died suddenly in the latter island on the 16th June. The keeper of the prison at Antigua, Mr. J. H. Peters, after 37 years' good service was pensioned. His place has been filled by a trained and qualified prison officer from England. Several other changes of minor importance were effected.

7.—EDUCATION.

The figures in the Blue Book disclose gratifying returns. During the past year the numbers on the registers have risen from 12,573 to 13,677, an increase of 1,104, while during the same period there has been an increase of 581, and this improvement has taken place in spite of the inclemency of the weather in the early part of the year.

Many changes of importance have been effected in 1891 in this department.

First and foremost was the passing of the Compulsory Education Act (No. 14 of 1890), which was carried through the Federal Council without a dissenting voice. The chief provisions of this Act are those with regard to the appointment of educational district officers, the enforcement of penalties against parents and employers for the non-attendance of children under the age of 12, the establishment of Colonial schools in districts where there is insufficient accommodation, the power given to the Governor in Council to proclaim compulsory districts, so as to bring the Act gradually into force, and the authority given to appoint Boards with powers to be defined by the Governor in Council. No prosecutions, except by order of the Colonial Secretary, are to be entered under this Act before the 1st July 1891.

The Federal Council also passed an Act, No. 15 of 1890, to take the place of the different Acts which were to expire at the end of 1890. Under this Act the Governor in Council is empowered to pass rules and regulations to regulate the salaries of teachers, the standard of examination, and other matters connected with the Primary Schools. Rules have been passed ameliorating the system which came into existence in 1874. In order to secure a better class of teachers, the salaries, which were not large enough to attract men qualified for the position, were considerably augmented by the addition of certificate grants. In November there was, for the first time, an examination of teachers competent for certificates and, in future, schools under the charge of teachers not in possession of certificates will not be entitled to Government aid. It is to be hoped that the increased emoluments will tend to make the teachers show better work and raise their schools to a higher state of efficiency.

A pupil-teachers' system on a good basis was also established in order to give assistance in the larger schools and to prepare a better class of students than those at present examined at the entrance examinations of the training colleges.

The subject of improving the educational status and of making provision for the training of female teachers has been recognised in the provision for, and assistance to, the Moravian Female Training College in St. John's, Antigua, where Government students in return for a grant will now be received irrespective of denomination.

The Mico Training College for male teachers still continues to receive a subsidy of 200*l.* under the Federal Act No. 20 of 1878.

Nothing has more retarded the progress of education in the Colony than the want of skilled teachers in sufficient numbers, and this has in a great measure been due to the excessive multiplication of schools under the denominational system, which has caused the Government grant to be subdivided to such an extent that the salaries were too small to secure the services of trained teachers.

A scheme for the building of central schools in places where one school would meet the requirements of the district has been prepared and is engaging the earnest attention of the Government.

During 1890 secondary education has made considerable advances in the Colony. A Government grammar school and a high school, aided by Government, have been started in St. Kitts and Montserrat respectively, and 300*l.* have been placed on the estimates in Dominica for the establishment of a grammar school.

It is the contention of the Government that these schools should afford special facilities to boys intending to enter life as planters or merchants. In Antigua the existing high schools have made great progress during the year as is proved by the fact that, whereas in 1889 only 15 candidates entered for the Cambridge local examination, 30 were presented in 1890.

Arrangements were also made for establishing in Antigua a centre for the examinations of the London University, which will be of advantage to these islands by enabling many who, from want of means, are unable to proceed to the Mother Country to pass those examinations, to do so in the Colony.

Following the example of the syndicates established under the authority of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge a society was formed by those interested in education for the promotion and encouragement of home reading and self-improvement. As many as 56 presented themselves for examination in the different subjects at the Antigua centre.

Throughout the Colony there are distinct and encouraging signs that the advantages of education are being more and more appreciated by all classes, and that there are hopes of great progress in this direction in the near future.

8.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The gross value of the imports was 451,760*l.* as against 428,979*l.* in 1889. The gross value of the exports was 513,557*l.*

Antigua contributed more largely than any of the other Presidencies towards the total increase in the imports. The returns of this Presidency show an increase of 18,804*l.* as against 3,751*l.*, 151*l.*, and 821*l.* shown by the returns of St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica, and the Virgin Islands respectively.

With regard to the exports, notwithstanding the exceptionally dry season, the out-put of our chief staples was a very little less than in 1889. There was only a falling off of 4,357 tons of sugar, and of 4,084 puncheons of molasses.

In the miscellaneous articles of export, the produce of the Colony, such as salt (from Anguilla), bay leaves (from Dominica), logwood (from Antigua and Dominica), essential oils (from Dominica and Montserrat), hides and skins, &c., there was an increase of 5,764*l.*

The United Kingdom has increased the value of her exports to this Colony by 33,304*l.* since 1887 when it was 185,770*l.* In 1890 the value was 219,074*l.*, as against 201,159*l.* in 1889, and as against 184,150*l.* in 1888.

British North America increased her exports to this Colony from 16,651*l.* in 1887 to 17,890*l.* in 1889, and to 19,823*l.* in 1890. In 1887 they fell temporarily to 15,931*l.*

The United States of America have made no progress since 1888 so far as their exports to the Leeward Islands are concerned. In 1887 they gave us 141,489*l.*, in 1888 147,531*l.*, in 1889 143,153*l.*, and in 1890 147,212*l.*

The United States received nearly three-fourths of our total exports or 387,223*l.* They took sugar to the value of 372,822*l.*, molasses (from Antigua and St. Kitts only) to the value of 5,288*l.*, and fruits and fruit juices to the value of 5,826*l.*, of which Dominica gave 5,156*l.*

To the United Kingdom our exports were valued at 41,698*l.*, these consisting chiefly of sugar from Antigua and St. Kitts (19,079*l.*); fruits and fruit juices (limes principally) 12,421*l.* from Dominica and Montserrat, and coffee and cocoa (6,069*l.*) from Dominica.

British North America received nearly all our molasses. It was shipped from Antigua and St. Kitts only, to the value of 29,926*l.* These two Presidencies also shipped to her 4,130*l.* worth of sugar.

To Martinique we shipped, for the manufacture of rum, 10,469*l.* worth of molasses.

The statements given below are intended to show (*a*) the value of our trade with the countries enumerated, (*b*) how such trade is made up, and (*c*) each Presidency's imports and exports.

Countries.	Imports from				Exports to			
	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
					£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	185,770	184,150	201,159	219,074	26,367	59,970	54,445	41,698
British North America - -	16,651	15,931	17,890	19,832	26,455	36,965	51,331	35,576
Barbados - - - -	23,922	26,757	28,390	27,633	983	2,494	2,600	2,567
Other British Colonies - - -	7,132*	5,849	3,811	3,963	11,911*	595	1,351	2,578
United States of America - -	141,489	147,531	143,151	147,212	319,772	377,693	545,388	387,223
Other Foreign countries - -	27,626*	13,301	21,812	20,180	67,109*	18,545	19,810	29,812
	402,590	393,519	416,215	437,885	452,597	496,262	674,925	499,454
Internal Trade - - -	—	11,691	12,764	13,875	—	13,547	14,858	14,103
Total - -	402,590	405,210	428,979	451,760	452,597	509,809	689,783	513,557

* Includes internal trade.

VALUES OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF IMPORT FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES.

United Kingdom.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
			1890.	1890.
	£	£	£	£
Alcoholic liquors	9,264	8,406	—	858
Boots and shoes	7,803	8,982	1,179	—
Coal, &c.	2,508	1,490	—	1,090
Cottons and woollens	58,138	60,842	2,704	—
Earthen and glassware	2,520	2,767	247	—
Fancy goods, toys, &c.	2,403	2,662	259	—
Rice	7.104	7,538	434	—
Government stores	5,892	7,722	1,830	—
Haberdashery, &c.	22,886	27,544	4,658	—
Hardware	14,775	16,729	1,954	—
Leather and saddlery	3,740	3,394	—	346
Sugar machinery	10,628	16,814	6,186	—
Manures	15.424	15,823	399	—
Groceries	4,096	4,783	687	—
Soap	3,648	3,281	—	367
Other articles	30,258	30,297	39	—
	201,159	219,074	20,576	2,661
	Increase, 17,915*l.*			

British North America.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
			1890.	1890.
	£	£	£	£
Fish, dried and pickled	12,648	12,160	—	488
White pine and spruce	3,966	4,202	236	—
Other articles	1,276	3,461	2,185	—
	17,890	19,823	2,421	488
	Increase, 1,933*l.*			

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Barbados.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
			1890.	1890.
	£	£	£	£
Cottons and woollens	2,270	1,454	—	816
Manures	1,860	1,580	—	280
Fish, dried and pickled	9,414	9,968	554	—
Flour	1,770	2,573	803	—
Shooks	1,522	1,361	—	161
Other articles	9,164	10,697	1,533	—
	26,000	27,633	2,890	1,257

Increase of 1,633*l.*

United States of America.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
			1890.	1890.
	£	£	£	£
Corn	6,339	7,973	1,634	—
Bread biscuits	3,599	4,476	877	—
Flour	42,299	50,456	8,157	—
Meal	8,177	10,089	1,912	—
Butter	4,089	3,542	—	547
Cheese	1,675	1,789	114	—
Lard	2,230	1,650	—	580
Pork	15,365	11,679	—	3,686
Petroleum oil	3,525	3,233	—	292
Tobacco	4,823	3,523		1,300
White pine and spruce	2,767	6,926	4,159	—
Shocks	14,210	2,555	—	11,655
Pitch pine	1,539	3,418	1,879	—
Cyptus and Wallaba shingles	1,173	1,302	129	—
Fish, dried and pickled	1,690	1,951	261	—
Beef (salted)	2,848	3,448	600	—
Other articles	26,805	29,202	2,397	—
	143,153	147,212	22,119	18,060

Increase, 4,059*l.*

VALUES OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF EXPORTS TO THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:—

United Kingdom.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
			1890.	1890.
	£	£	£	£
Fruits and fruit juices - -	8,935	12,421	3,486	—
Coffee and cocoa - - -	10,260	6,069	—	4,191
Sugar - - - - -	28,097	19,079	—	9,018
Other articles - - -	7,153	4,129	—	3,024
	54,445	41,698	3,486	16,233
	Decrease, 12,747*l.*			

British North America.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
			1890.	1890.
	£	£	£	£
Sugar - - - -	9,436	4,130	—	5,306
Molasses - - -	41,195	29,926	—	11,269
Other articles - - -	700	1,520	820	—
	51,331	35,576	820	16,575
	Decrease, 15,755*l.*			

United States of America.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
			1890.	1890.
	£	£	£	£
Fruits and fruit juices - -	8,643	5,826	—	2,817
Sugar - - - - -	517,240	372,822	—	144,418
Molasses - - - - -	17,294	5,288	—	12,006
Other articles - - -	2,211	3,287	1,076	—
	545,388	387,223	1,076	159,241
	Decrease, 158,165*l.*			

VALUE of the PRINCIPAL ARTICLES of IMPORT into each PRESIDENCY.

Articles.	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Montserrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total for the Colony.		1890 Increase.	1890 Decrease.
	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Alcoholic liquors - -	5,256	4,597	9,147	7,144	2,934	2,018	450	694	96	113	17,973	14,566	—	3,407
Boots and shoes - -	3,584	4,058	2,875	3,206	1,513	1,571	406	432	59	115	8,437	9,382	945	—
Cottons, woollens, and linens manufactured - -	19,367	21,059	25,326	27,079	11,976	11,914	4,779	3,986	346	355	61,794	64,393	2,599	—
Grain - - - -	8,812	9,832	6,817	7,567	776	1,024	195	265	103	97	16,703	18,785	2,082	—
Haberdashery and millinery	9,705	11,903	9,792	11,798	2,535	3,221	1,390	1,316	20	24	23,442	28,262	4,820	—
Hardware - - -	6.258	7,672	6,582	7,225	1,801	2,028	1,456	1,174	74	53	16,171	18,152	1,981	—
Machinery - - -	5,150	9,086	4,592	6,549	497	1,090	467	508	—	90	10,706	17,323	6,617	
Manures - - -	7,507	7,303	7,317	9,110	2,711	2,449	180	65	—	—	17,715	18,927	1,212	—
Oil meal - - -	1,770	2,637	4,011	4,776	131	132	156	179	—	—	6,068	7,724	1,656	—
Provisions:— Breadstuffs, &c. - -	23,732	28,482	25,965	30,699	6,153	6,661	2,563	3,936	1,375	1,796	59,788	71,574	11,786	—
Salted or dried - -	23,776	21,544	23,403	20,225	7,101	8,568	4,289	3,578	250	261	58,819	54,176	—	4,643
Groceries, &c. - -	4,382	4,899	4,069	4,622	2,003	1,616	322	570	47	314	9,823	12,021	2,198	—
Tallow and oils - -	3,702	4,001	4,041	3,522	3,134	3,069	868	702	151	135	11,896	11,429	—	467
Tobacco - - -	1,911	1,631	2,172	1,422	1,353	592	277	314	52	43	5,765	4,002	—	1,763
Wood Shooks, &c. - -	10,892	11,255	16,985	9,759	1,749	2,731	2,167	1,579	317	297	32,110	25,621	—	6,489
Other articles - -	21,823	26,360	23,805	35,502	10,287	7,295	2,685	2,090	405	301	59,005	61,548	2,543	—
	157,627	176,319	176,899	180,205	55,694	55,979	22,740	21,388	3,295	3,994	416,215	437,885	38,439	16,769
Internal Trade -	8,160	8,272	896	1.341	1,575	1,403	2,104	2,708	29	151	12,764	13,875	1,111	—
Total - - -	165,787	184,591	177,795	181,546	57,269	57,382	24,844	24,096	3,324	4,145	428,979	451,760	39,550	16,769

Net Increase, 22,781*l*.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

PRINCIPAL ENTRIES OF EXPORTS FROM EACH PRESIDENCY.

Articles.		Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Montserrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total.	
		1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.
Fruits and fruit juices -	£	2,040	—	549	180	8,331	9,175	8,745	7,063	85	—	19,750	16,418
Coffee and cocoa - -	lbs.	—	—	—	—	702,291	410,330	—	61	—	—	702,611	410,391
Sugar - - -	Tons	17,050	16,120	19,967	17,110	2,530	2,312	1,754	1,411	10	1	41,311	36,954
Molasses - - -	Puns.	8,842	7,541	7,128	4,598	559	410	495	391	—	—	17,024	12,940
Rum - - -	Proof Gallons	60	—	47,548	34,650	781	1,226	120	—		—	48,518	35,876
Other articles produced in the Colony - - -	£	655	3,017	2,504	3,714	5,001	5,485	1,345	1,915	3,835	4,973	13,340	19,104
Foreign produce re-exported -	£	807	1,523	6,632	7,672	391	1,099	29	72	—	2	7,869	10,368
Internal trade - - -	£	5,806	4,416	5,506	7,147	1,538	1,662	1,801	808	207	63	14,858	14,103

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

9.—SHIPPING.

In 1890, 672 steam and 3,855 sailing vessels entered at the Ports of the Colony. The total tonnage of the steam vessels was 715,650, and that of the sailing vessels 71,014.

Of the steam vessels 642 were British, 14 German, 15 American, and one was Norwegian. Of the sailing vessels 3,137 were British, 500 Dutch from the neighbouring islands of Saba, St. Eustatia, and St. Martins, 115 French, and 61 American.

In 1889, the steam vessels, which which were all British, numbered 544, and the sailing vessels 3,542. I give a statement showing the number of vessels which entered and cleared in each Presidency, and their total tonnage. As pointed out in a previous report, the mail steamer calling at each Presidency will be shown five times, and will thus swell the tonnage returns for the Colony.

—	1873.		1878.		1883.		1888.				1889.				1890.			
							Steam.		Sailing.		Steam.		Sailing.		Steam.		Sailing.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
ANTIGUA.																		
British - - -	833	14,322	571	41,741	963	338,305	294	314,348	620	32,897	308	331,970	582	27,563	374	396,934	645	49,233
Foreign - - -	56	9,598	172	18,426	128	23,915	—	—	106	19,244	—	—	127	26,431	20	23,680	137	19,558
ST. KITTS-NEVIS.																		
British - - -	1,236	64,285	983	64,740	1,284	346,127	340	358,746	929	33,734	314	331,206	1,045	37,225	392	412,238	1,194	28,692
Foreign - - -	999	20,549	1,539	39.485	951	29,934	—	—	754	18.462	—	—	816	19,717	26	25,406	1,040	21,725
DOMINICA.																		
British - - -	546	16,670	537	19,225	801	307,687	242	263,248	309	8,902	252	283,918	492	11,044	294	314,756	602	12,723
Foreign - - -	282	2,031	376	6,750	349	9,268	—	—	45	2,321	—	—	76	1,004	10	11,396	142	3,942
MONTSERRAT.																		
British - -	286	12,456	406	14,024	519	53,605	204	296,073	506	15,695	214	292,182	455	15,235	220	237,754	513	15,272
Foreign - - -	8	757	51	3,139		2,430	—	—	65	1,576	—	—	69	1,206	2	2,840	48	894
VIRGIN ISLANDS.																		
British - - -	2,445	8,586	2,906	8,318	1,715	5,500	—	—	3,121	8,718	—	—	3,484	8,358	—	—	3,329	8,179
Foreign - - -	8	320	6	67	10	254	—	—	28	404	—	—	13	148	—	—	68	723
Total - British -	5,346	143,319	5,503	148,048	—	1,051,224	1,080	1,232,415	5,485	99,946	1,088	1,239,276	6,058	99,425	1,280	1,361,682	6,283	114,099
Foreign -	1,353	33,255	2,144	67,867	—	65,801	—	—	998	42,007	—	—	1,101	48,506	58	63,322	1,435	46,842
Total - -	6,699	176,574	7,647	215,915	6,720	1,117,025	1,080	1,232,415	6,483	141.953	1,088	1,239,276	7,159	147,931	1,338	1,425,004	7,718	160,941

There was no regular steam communication with the Colony until late in 1878.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

10.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

As compared with the statistics of 1889, those for the year under review show a decrease in the number of offences reported to the police, and an increase in the number of persons convicted.

In 1889 there were 22,139 offences reported, as against 21,084 in 1890, while the convictions in 1890 were 8,997 as against 8,959 in 1889.

Offences against the person diminished throughout the Colony generally, but prædial larceny and offences against property increased largely in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Dominica.

There were convictions in about three-sevenths of the 19,804 cases brought before the courts.

Taking the population of the Colony at 130,000—and so far as I can at present estimate from the census returns this is a fair estimate—the convictions numbered almost 8 per cent. of the population.

Antigua, including Barbuda and Redonda with an estimated population of 37,000, gives nearly 8 per cent. St. Kitts-Nevis; including Anguilla with 47,000, gives $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Dominica with 29,000, gives 9 per cent. Montserrat with 12,000, gives $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and the Virgin Islands with 5,000 give $1\frac{1}{5}$ per cent.

Comparative Table showing the Number of Offences, Charges, Convictions, Acquittals, &c., in each Presidency for the Year 1890.

—	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Totals.	
1. Offences reported to the police or magistrate during 1890	5,927	7,181	7,206	637	133	21,084	
2. Persons brought before the magistrate on warrant or otherwise and disposed of	5,860	6,323	6,785	711	125	19,804	
(1.) Summarily	5,808	6,206	6,758	700	102	19,574	
(2.) Committed to trial	52	52	27	11	23	165	
	5,860	5,258	6,785	711	125	19,739	
3. Summary convictions:							
(1.) Offences against person	785	549	151	65	7	1,557	
(2.) Prædial larceny	110	168	63	31	5	377	
(3.) Offences against property, other than prædial larceny	213	526	180	79	13	1,011	
(4.) Other offences	1,808	1,768	2,215	143	42	5,976	
	2,916	3,011	2,609	318	67	—	8,921

—	Antigua.	St. Kitt's-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Totals.		
4. Convictions in the superior courts:								
(1.) Offences against the person	18	12	3	4	—	37		
(2.) Prædial larceny	—	10	—	—	—	10		
(3.) Offences against property other than prædial larceny	9	9	1	5	—	24		
(4.) Other offences	—	—	3	1	1	5		
	27	31	7	10	1	—	76	8,997
5. Acquitted:								
(1.) Inferior courts	1,243	1,125	1,099	213	4	3,684		
(2.) Superior courts	10	12	15	1	2	40		
	1,253	1,137	1,114	214	6	—		3,724
6. Cases not prosecuted:								
(1.) Inferior courts	1,649	2,070	3,050	169	31	6,969		
(2.) Superior courts	3	4	5	2	1	15		
	1,652	2,074	3,055	171	32	—		6,984
7. Cases pending:								
(1.) In inferior court	—	65	421	2	1	489		
(2.) In superior court	39	—	—	—	19	58		
	39	65	421	2	20	—		54[illegible]
								20,252

11.—GAOLS.

In 1890 there were received into the six common gaols of the Colony 1,358 men, 713 women, and 36 juveniles, in all 2,107 prisoners. Of this number 163 were received for safe custody, and 1,944 for penal imprisonment. Only two were committed for five years or more, 39 for one year or more but less than five years, and 38 for more than 3 months but less than one year, while 1,392, or nearly one-fifth, were committed for three months or less. Of the 79 sentenced to more than three months, [illegible] were received into the Antigua gaol, 25 having been committed to that prison direct, and 34 having been transferred there under the authority of the Governor.

The number of previous convictions has very sensibly diminished as will be noticed by reference to the following table. The diminution I attribute to the gradual but very marked improvement which has taken place in the administration of our gaols.

Year.	Number sentenced to penal imprisonment.	Number previously convicted.			Total.
		Once.	Twice.	Thrice or more.	
1888 -	1,760	404	299	549	1,252
1889 -	1,699	241	213	426	880
1890 -	1,944	253	160	351	764

There were no escapes. There were three deaths, two at Antigua, one at Dominica.

The number of punishments shown in the returns has increased from 226 in 1888 and 208 in 1889 to 685 in 1890, but this is mainly the result of the recent introduction of more accurate statistical records, although some increase is doubtless due to the determination of the authorities to enforce and improve the gaol discipline.

The year's expenditure upon the prisons is returned at 4,004*l.*

12.—HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

There are in Antigua one hospital, two lunatic asylums, a leper asylum, and a poor house. In St. Kitts there are two hospitals, one of which serves as a poor house, and lately there has been opened an asylum for the segregation of pauper lepers. In Nevis there is one hospital into which paupers are admitted. Dominica has one hospital for all diseases except Yaws, a hospital specially set apart for the treatment of "Yaws," and a poor house. Montserrat and the Virgin Islands have each a hospital admitting paupers.

Of the 2,909 persons who received hospital treatment, one half (1,473) were discharged as cured, 655 were sent out relieved, and 49 as not improved. There were 376 deaths, or nearly 12½ per cent. of the cases treated. This may appear large, but it should not be forgotten that the native dislike to any form of restraint, keeps a large number of the sick from seeking hospital treatment until they are more or less in a moribund condition.

The lunatic asylums at Antigua serve for the Colony, the island sending patients to them bearing the cost of their maintenance. The buildings belong to, and the staff are paid by, Antigua. That at Rat Island, in the harbour of St. John's, receives patients on their first admission for treatment. That at the Ridge, near English Harbour, receives those who are convalescent or harmless and quiet. The former at the end of 1889 contained 69 inmates, and during 1890 admitted 40. Six were sent to the Ridge, 15 were discharged, and 22 died, leaving 66 at the commencement of this year. The Ridge contained 66 inmates at the end of 1889 received six from Rat Island during 1890, discharged 10, and was left with 31 at the end of 1890, one death having taken place.

In the leper asylum at Antigua, there were 28 inmates at the end of 1889. 10 were admitted during 1890, and eight died, leaving 30 at the beginning of 1891.

There is no law in Antigua affecting lepers, who are only induced to go to, or remain in, the asylum by the bestowal uopn them of more attention and better treatment than they can obtain elsewhere, In St. Kitts a law for the segregation of pauper lepers has recently been passed, and an asylum recently erected at Sandy Point now contains 81 inmates.

The poor house at Antigua contained 60 inmates at the end of 1889, 24 males, 36 females, to these were added in 1890, 32 males and 51 females. 41 males and 42 females were discharged, leaving 60 inmates on the 1st January 1891, 15 males and 45 females, 12 being children under 13 years of age. There were three deaths. Outdoor relief was extended to 60 males and 188 females, 385*l.* having been disbursed.

In St. Kitts-Nevis a sum of 916*l.* was spent upon outdoor pauper relief, while 121 paupers were admitted to the hospitals.

The Dominica Poor House added 160 paupers to the 108 who were inmates on the 31st December 1889, 64 died and 121 were discharged, leaving 83 to begin 1891 with. 10 persons shared outdoor relief amounting to 36*l.*

Exclusive of the salaries of the medical staff, the total cost of the hospitals and asylums is returned at 14,029*l.* of which 2,388*l.* was for the nursing and supervising staff.

Hospitals.

Presidency.		Remaining at beginning of 1890.	Admitted in 1890.	Discharged			Died.	Remaining at end of 1890.
				Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.		
Antigua	Male -	52	428	238	140	—	94	8
	Female	56	493	164	216	—	93	76
St. KITTS-NEVIS.								
Cunningham	Male -	56	503*	333	104	2	60	60
	Female	39	444*	288	84	—	56	55
Sandy Point	Male -	7	70	47	12	1	10	7
	Female	9	64	47	12	—	4	10
Nevis	Male -	23	51†	23	18	1	6	26
	Female	20	21†	16	15	1	9	—
DOMINICA.								
Roseau	Male -	16	175	122	32	23	17	—
	Female	10	84	59	10	12	9	4
Yaws	Male -	38	29	47	—	—	3	17
	Female	24	28	34	—	—	3	15
Montserrat	Male -	28	37	23	4	3	4	31
	Female	35	40	25	5	3	5	37
Virgin Islands	Male -	7	12	7	2	2	2	6
	Female	7	3	—	1	1	1	7
Total -	-	427	2,482	1,473	655	49	376	359

* Including 114 paupers.

† Including 7 paupers.

Lunatic Asylum at Rat Island.

—	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Mont-serrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Remaining end of 1889	11	20	7	8	8	3	2	5	3	2	31	38
Admitted in 1890	15	8	3	2	3	3	3	3	—	—	24	16
Total	26	28	10	10	11	6	5	8	3	2	55	54
Sent to the Ridge	3	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	2
	23	27	9	10	11	5	5	8	3	2	51	52
Discharged	3	7	2	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	7	8
	20	20	7	10	10	5	4	7	3	2	44	44
Died	4	5	2	2	2	2	1	3	—	1	9	13
Remaining end of 1890	16	15	5	8	8	3	3	4	3	1	35	31

Lunatic Asylum at the Ridge.

—	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Mont-serrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Remaining end of 1889	10	11	4	3	4	—	1	2	1	—	20	16
Admitted in 1890	3	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	2
Total	13	12	5	3	4	1	1	2	1	—	24	18
Discharged	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	8	2
	6	11	5	3	4	1	1	1	—	—	16	16
Died	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Remaining end of 1890	6	11	5	3	3	1	1	1	—	—	15	16

15.—METEOROLOGICAL.

A record of the temperature, wet bulb readings, barometrical pressures, and rainfall was commenced to be made at the Government laboratory Antigua on the 1st April 1890.

The instruments are 40 feet above sea-level.

In Antigua the hottest month was September, with an average maximum temperature in the shade of 88° F.

The highest barometer reading (not corrected for temperature) was 30·25 inches on June 1st and 4th, the lowest was 29·95 on August 27th.

The highest temperature (shade) was 91° F. on June 26th, the lowest temperature was on April 15th and 16th, 62° F.

The average rainfall, at 45 stations in the island, was 33·00 inches and was very much below the usual average. In 1889 the average over 50 stations was 73·59 but this was unusually large. In 1888 the average over 47 stations was 44·23. In the City of St. John the total rainfall was 44·22 inches. On the 26th and 27th August there were indications of an approaching hurricane, the barometer falling to 29·95, the storm however, passed about 200 miles to the east of the island. It appears to have had its origin about 450 miles east of Dominica, and to have crossed St. John's Newfoundland on the 1st September.

There were several slight shocks of earthquakes during the year, but no damage was done.

I append a diagram and a table showing the meteorological summary for the year.

Particulars for the other Presidencies of the Colony cannot be given but as instruments have recently been shipped it is hoped that I may be able to give more general information for the Colony next year.

Date.	Thermometer.		Dew Point.		Thermometer.		Barometer.		Rainfall.
	Dry 9 a.m.	3 p.m.	9 a.m.	3 p.m.	Max.	Min.	9 a.m.	3 p.m.	
1890.									
January - -	77	77	—	—	—	—	30·06	30·08	5·21
February - -	74	71	—	—	—	—	30·15	30·13	1·00
March - -	83	80	—	—	—	—	30·11	30·11	2·51
April - -	79	80	67	64	84	68	30·16	30·13	0·72
May - -	83	81	69	69	85	71	30·17	30·15	3·06
June - -	82	84	9¾	70	87	73	30·20	30·18	1·30
July - -	83	82¾	79	71	87	73	30·18	30·17	3·79
August - -	82	84	72	72	87	74	30·09	30·11	5·53
September -	82	84	72	72½	88	72	30·13	30·09	5·26
October - -	83	83½	73½	71	87½	72	30·12	30·07	3·32
November - -	82	82½	70	70½	86	73	30·10	30·05	1·56
December - -	80	82	68¾	68	85½	70	30·15	30·10	1·96
							Total 44·22.		

Savings Banks.

The total amount of the savings banks deposits was increased by 902*l*. In Antigua there was an increase in the deposits and in the number of the depositors. In St. Kitt's and in Montserrat the deposits were diminished by the withdrawal of some of the larger deposit accounts.

Dominica and Nevis Banks both show encouraging signs of progress.

It is not easy to understand why, the conditions being the same, St. Kitts-Nevis with a population in excess of that of Antigua by some 10,000 has only about one-fourth of the savings returned in Antigua.

The attached statements give the details for each of the banks.

Presidency.	No. of Deposits.			Amount of Deposits.			Amount invested.		
	1888.	1889.	1890.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1888.	1830.	1890.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua - -	1,050	1,163	1,466	35,349	38,995	40,274	27,533	30,297	39,684
St. Kitts - -	235	260	266	6,083	6,800	6,677	5,995	6,595	6,594
Nevis - -	65	70	77	2,719	3,120	3,228	2,650	3,063	3,163
Dominica -	130	155	183	3,376	4,077	4,408	3,150	3,950	4,250
Montserrat -	78	92	81	2,547	2,702	2,009	2,208	2,481	1,678
Virgin Islands -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total -	1,558	1,740	2,073	50,074	55,694	56,596	41,536	46,386	55,369

Number of Depositors in Sums of

Presidency.	Under 1*l*.			1*l*. to 10*l*.			10*l*. to 20*l*.		
	1888.	1889.	1890.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1888.	1889.	1890.
Antigua - -	294	329	514	419	465	546	123	111	129
St. Kitts - -	41	38	42	80	107	90	38	36	36
Nevis - -	6	4	2	20	21	29	11	10	7
Dominica -	11	23	33	53	64	73	24	19	21
Montserrat -	16	18	19	28	30	28	9	9	9
Virgin Islands -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total -	368	412	610	600	696	775	205	183	202

Presidency.	20*l*. to 50*l*.			50*l*. to 100*l*.			Over 100*l*.		
	1888.	1889.	1890.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1888.	1889.	1890.
Antigua - -	85	104	[illegible]	52	56	58	83	98	106
St. Kitts - -	30	38	48	17	11	20	23	30	21
Nevis - -	10	12	16	4	9	8	14	14	15
Dominica -	20	26	26	12	9	18	10	14	12
Montserrat -	7	10	11	6	3	7	12	13	7
Virgin Islands -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	152	190	214	91	88	111	142	169	161

15.—GENERAL REMARKS.

Notwithstanding the continued commercial depression consequent upon the manufacture of beet sugar and the low market price of cane sugar, there are many indications that the Colony is steadily advancing. Calls at our ports are now made by a new line of steamers running between the West Indies and British North America, communication between New York and the Colony by means of fast steamers with the latest improvements and highest class passenger accommodation is being arranged, and it is hoped to secure direct steam communication with Canada at an early date. Between the Islands of the Colony, a steamer specially fitted for passengers is now constantly running.

The erection of hotels in Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica with the restoration of the old hotel at Nevis, where there is a hot spring with a reputation for the cure of nervous and rheumatic affections will, with the increased steam facilities, not only lead to these beautiful and healthy Islands rivalling the Bahamas in the estimation of our neighbours the Americans and others, but to the material advancement of the Colony by bringing about the introduction of capital, increased cultivation, the opening up of the fruit trade, and the creation of new industries.

The botanic stations show signs of utility; many plants of economic value have been distributed and a fibre industry started.

An agricultural and commercial society which was started during 1890 cannot fail to be of benefit to the Colony if it will keep touch with the Superintendent of Agriculture, and work in harmony with the gentleman performing the important duties of this recently-created office. Mr. Morris, the Assistant Director of the Royal Gardens at Kew, paid the Colony an official visit, and his interesting and instructive lectures gave an impetus to agricultural enterprise.

Dominica has an excellent and unlimited supply of water, but that of Antigua, St. Kitts, and Nevis has long required the attention it is now receiving. In Antigua a reservoir, adding 2,800,000 gallons to the water supply of the City, was recently completed, a reservoir increasing the country water supply was constructed at Willikies, and the long talked of reservoir at Wallings to hold 13,000,000 gallons has been commenced.

In St. Kitts the villagers between Cayon and Dieppe Bay will very soon have their wants supplied, and at Nevis an ample supply for the island has already been provided.

The harbour at St. John's, Antigua, is about to be commenced. Preliminary surveys have been held and the results justify the opinion that with the expenditure of a moderate sum we could possess the finest harbour in the West Indies for deep draught vessels.

The revenue has been maintained and there has been no increase of taxation.

In the Virgin Islands the assistance of a body of Danish troops was obtained from St. Thomas by the Commissioner who anticipated a disturbance arising out of a breach of the revenue laws and armed police were despatched from Antigua. The Governor proceeded to the islands in one of Her Majesty's ships of war (H.M.S. Tourmaline) and the matter was settled by the arrest and subsequent punishment of the disturbers of the peace.

The progress made with the Census returns of the year (1891) has enabled me to prepare the annexed statement which may be of interest as showing the condition of the people.

—	Population (Approximate).	Revenue.		*Expenditure.		†Total Value of Imports.		Total Value of Exports.		Customs Duties Paid.		Value of Following Imports.						Savings.	
		—	Per Head.	—	Per Head.	—	Per Head.	—	Pe. Head.	—	Per Head.	Alcohol.	Per Head.	Food Supplies.	Per Head.	Articles of Wearing Apparel.	Per Head.	Deposits in Savings Bank.	Per Head.
		£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
Antigua -	37,000	46,334	1 5 4½	45,685	1 4 8¼	184,591	4 19 8	218,223	5 18 0	33,138	0 17 10	4,597	0 2 6	54,925	2 9 8¼	37,020	1 0 0	40,274	1 1 9¼
St. Kitts-Nevis	47,000	42,955	0 18 3¼	36,929	0 15 8½	181,546	3 17 3	225,233	4 15 10	28,472	0 12 1½	7,144	0 3 0	55.546	1 3 7	42,083	0 17 11	9,905	0 4 2½
Dominica -	29,000	21,574	0 14 10½	23,607	0 16 3¼	57,332	1 19 7	42.296	1 9 2	13,900	0 9 7	2,018	0 1 4¾	16,845	0 11 7½	16,706	0 11 6¼	4,408	0 3 0½
Montserrat -	12,000	6,733	0 11 2½	6,097	0 10 2	23,096	1 18 6	22,755	1 18 0	4,796	0 8 0	694	0 1 2	8,084	0 13 5¾	5,734	0 9 6¾	2,009	0 3 4
Virgin Islands	5,000	1,762	0 7 2½	1,881	0 7 6¼	4,145	0 16 7	5,050	1 0 2	1,240	0 4 11½	113	0 0 5½	2,371	0 9 6	494	0 1 11¾	—	—
Colony -	130,000	119,358	0 18 4	114,199	0 17 7	450,760	3 9 4	513,557	3 19 0	81,546	0 12 6	14,566	0 2 3	137,771	1 1 2	102,037	0 15 8½	56,596	0 8 8½

* Exclusive of public works of an exceptional nature.

† Including trade between the islands of the Colony.

FRED. EVANS,
Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands.

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No. 51.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

[For Report for 1890, *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 22.]

Acting Governor EVANS to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Antigua,
July 13, 1892.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship my report on the Blue Book of the Leeward Islands Colony for the year 1891. The Blue Book itself is not yet out of the printer's hands, but I expect to have it ready for transmission to your Lordship at an early date.

2. The Colony has passed quietly through a year of trial; there was severe famine and drought in Anguilla, the want of seasonable rain diminished the cane crops of Antigua and St. Kitts, while the hurricane which devastated Martinique on the 18th August last damaged the lime trees of Dominica, and but for the circulation of the money expended upon public works, great distress would have prevailed among the labouring class, and have made itself apparent. Nevertheless, the Colony shows no sign of retrogression; it is advancing in prosperity, and with its healthy climate, and many undeveloped industries, must advance with the introduction of capital, which can be remuneratively invested.

3. A Parcels Post Convention with Canada has been signed and arrangements have been made for the establishment of a money order system, so that our commercial transactions with Canada, which are steadily increasing, may be facilitated.

4. The schemes for bringing the Colony into more regular steam communication with the United States and Canada, and for the erection of high-class hotels, have been borne in mind, and it is hoped that they will shortly come into operation.

5. The plan for the improvement of the Harbour of St. John's, Antigua, has been approved by your Lordship, and we look forward to having in the near future one of the best and most attractive harbours in the West Indies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. EVANS,
Administering the Government.

The Right Hon. Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

1.—REVENUE.

The revenue was affected by the small crops obtained from the sugar-cane plantations and as against an estimate of 120,609*l.* only yielded 111,286*l.*, or 8,073*l.* less than was realised in 1890.

It will be observed from the following statement that of the total loss, as compared with the 1890 receipts, the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis sustained between them 7,575*l.* while Dominica, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, although short of their estimated receipts by 3,576*l.*, nearly maintained the revenue of the previous year. This is to be accounted for by the fact that the commercial depression of the year was more severely felt in the former Presidencies than in Dominica and Montserrat, where the staple industries were not affected. But for the relief works in Anguilla and for the expenditure upon public works, Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis would have suffered more severely.

Presidency.	Estimated 1891.	Actual Receipts.	
		1891.	1890.
	£	£	£
Antigua - - -	46,024	43,506	46,334
St. Kitts - - -	41,438	38,209	42,956
Dominica - -	24,045	21,533	21,574
Montserrat - -	7,107	6,526	6,733
Virgin Islands - -	1,995	1,512	1,762
Total. - -	120,609	111,286	119,359

Of the loss sustained by Antigua and St. Kitts 5,397*l.* arose under Customs. In Dominica and Montserrat the customs receipts were increased, in the Virgin Islands they fell off.

There was a decrease in the amount of shipping (excluding the Government Steamer "Tyne" which pays no dues) and as a consequence the port and harbour dues gave 1,217*l.* less than in 1890.

The Excise duties were better collected and yielded an increase of 797*l.*, in St. Kitts only was there a decrease (130*l.*).

The amount raised in Antigua from the Land Tax was increased by 788*l.* but fell off in the other Presidencies, the net decrease being 1,350*l.*

The Post Office receipts showed an increase of 395*l.*, but there was a falling off in licenses, rates and fees of court.

I append a statement showing for each Presidency the amount of Revenue collected and the sources from which it was derived.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of REVENUE COLLECTED in each PRESIDENCY of the COLONY for the Years 1890 and 1891.

Heads of Revenue.	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.	
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Customs - - - -						
2. Import duties on other than alcoholic liquors - - -	22,147 19 7	20,667 17 10	19,579 5 4	17,815 13 7	8,175 4 2	8,858 2 8
3. Import duties on alcoholic liquors	8,155 3 3	6,679 17 2	3,112 17 9	2,134 16 6	901 1 5	595 15 2
	30,303 2 10	27,347 15 0	22,692 3 1	20,250 10 1	9,076 5 7	9,453 17 10
4. Port harbour dues- - - -	1,575 5 5	1,246 17 10	3,296 15 5	2,640 6 9	902 15 4	835 18 2
5. Internal Revenue :—						
Excise - - - -	1,354 11 9	1,830 0 6	3,639 16 0	3,508 7 2	3,187 0 8	3,518 18 8
Taxes - - - -	2,834 10 3	3,622 12 7	5,780 12 8	4,357 18 7	4,823 18 10	4,269 8 2
Licenses - - - -	2,099 8 6	2,076 11 4	2,600 16 1	2,583 16 8	1,484 11 3	1,537 2 9
Rates - - - -	1,450 11 10	1,449 9 1	1,053 9 4	761 10 4	79 13 5	84 11 10
Miscellaneous - - -	1,104 7 7	917 12 6	1,065 5 4	947 18 8	890 10 5	686 4 6
	8,843 9 11	9,896 6 0	14,139 19 5	12,159 11 5	10,465 14 7	10,096 5 11

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Comparative Statement of Revenue Collected in each Presidency of the Colony for the Years 1890 and 1891—*continued*.

Heads of Revenue.	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.	
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
(*continued*).	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
6. Fees of court - - -	3,450 10 2	2,991 17 1	1,308 18 9	1,111 19 8	510 18 0	445 12 5
7. Post Office, &c. - - -	1,729 1 4	1,827 5 8	1,258 17 2	1,557 1 7	498 1 4	650 14 10
8. Rents - - - -	200 4 8	62 14 0	58 14 4	364 7 6	52 18 7	5 3 8
9. Interest - - - -	180 0 0	110 2 4	63 6 3	41 4 2	21 5 0	1 5 0
10. Miscellaneous - -	52 7 9	22 13 3	136 15 1	84 3 8	46 8 5	44 4 0
	£46,334 2 1	43,505 11 2	42 955 9 6	38,209 4 10	21,574 6 10	21,533 1 10

Comparative Statement of Revenue Collected in each Presidency of the Colony for the Years 1890 and 1891—*continued.*

Heads of Revenue.	Montserrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total for the Colony.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s d.
1. Customs - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Import duties on other than alcoholic liquors - -	2,215 1 4	2,369 9 7	463 12 0	407 18 0	52,581 2 5	50,110 1 8	—	2,471 0 9
3. Import duties on alcoholic liquors	626 3 11	489 14 7	42 11 8	60 19 9	12,837 18 0	10,261 3 2	—	2,576 14 10
£	2,841 5 3	2,850 4 2	506 3 8	468 17 9	65,419 0 5	60,371 4 10	—	—
4. Port Harbour dues - -	96 1 10	7 16 6	519 2 5	442 10 9	6,390 0 5	5,173 10 0	—	1,216 10 5
5. Internal Revenue :— Excise - - -	737 5 6	858 9 3	—	—	8,918 13 11	9,715 15 7	797 1 8	—
Taxes - - -	1,867 11 9	1,714 17 10	246 0 11	237 11 9	15,552 14 5	14,202 8 11	—	1,350 5 6
Licenses - - -	438 15 0	423 9 0	209 16 1	201 3 10	6,873 6 11	6,822 3 7	—	51 3 4
Rates - - -	110 5 3	91 15 6	—	—	2,693 19 10	2,387 6 9	—	306 13 1
Miscellaneous - -	66 2 10	59 12 0	53 15 10	53 5 7	3,140 2 0	2,664 13 3	—	475 8 9
£	3,220 0 4	3,148 3 7	509 12 10	492 1 2	37,178 17 1	35,792 8 1	—	—

LEEWARD ISLANDS

Comparative Statement of Revenue Collected in each Presidency of the Colony for the Years 1890 and 1891—*continued.*

Heads of Revenue.	Montserrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total for the Colony.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
(*continued*).	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
6. Fees of Court - - -	265 4 5	222 18 8	62 17 6	69 2 10	5,598 8 10	4,841 10 8	—	756 18 2
7. Post Office, &c. - -	273 19 11	249 16 2	152 19 4	22 16 9	3,912 19 1	4,307 15 0	394 15 11	—
8. Rents - - - -	—	—	3 10 10	4 12 2	315 8 5	436 17 4	121 8 11	—
9. Interest - - -	—	31 15 3	—	—	264 11 3	184 6 9	—	80 4 6
10. Miscellaneous - - -	36 0 1	14 17 3	7 18 6	12 8 4	279 9 10	178 6 6	—	101 3 4
£	6,732 11 10	6,525 11 7	1,762 5 1	1,512 9 9	119,358 15 4	111,285 19 2	1,313 6 6	9,386 2 8

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Of the total revenue collected 33,985*l.* or nearly one-third of the whole was spent directly on the people in education and on public libraries, hospitals, &c.; while the administration of justice, suppression of crime, and preservation of the peace, cost about 25,300*l.*

2.—EXPENDITURE.

Irrespective of the 12,484*l.* spent upon exceptional and special public works, the expenditure of 1891 was 114,504*l.* It was 2,207*l.* less than was estimated, although 3,218*l.* in excess of the year's revenue, which only yielded the small sum of 111,286*l.*, as against 119,359*l.* in 1890, and instead of the 120,609*l.* estimated for. The expenditure includes services for which there were no disbursements in 1890, namely 3,000*l.* as subsidy to the Federal steamer "Tyne," an additional 3,096*l.* for education, 1,026*l.* for the Census and extra outlay on the prisons and hospitals; but, notwithstanding, it is only 305*l.* more than in 1890.

The tables show the expenditure of each Presidency.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of EXPENDITURE in each PRESIDENCY of the COLONY in the years 1890 and 1891.

Heads of Expenditure.	Antigua.						St. Kitts-Nevis.						Dominica.					
	1890.			1891.			1890.			1891.			1890.			1891.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Charges on account public works	3,008	13	7	806	19	3	1,119	0	0	1,139	0	0	3,646	16	11	1,709	9	8
2 Pensions	558	3	11	904	4	1	2,329	1	1	2,522	15	4	714	18	4	641	2	3
3. Legislative	75	0	0	75	0	0	100	0	0	100	0	0	50	17	0	50	0	0
4. Island Secretary	163	16	5	164	3	7	792	7	8	792	1	10	793	2	3	674	16	0½
5. Federal contribution	3,215	4	3	3,017	3	0½	2,866	12	1	3,971	6	1½	1,852	8	8	2,404	18	7
6. Treasury and Customs	2,405	2	9	2,880	14	5½	2,139	16	4	2,129	18	7	2,046	5	6	2,093	17	8½
7. Audit	164	1	0	170	0	0	50	0	0	50	0	0	—			—		
8. Port and Marine	737	8	11	556	6	8	78	7	7	109	9	7	24	10	8	40	17	9
9. Registrar and Provost Marshal	853	4	4	849	13	2	721	19	2	884	11	10	618	0	11	701	7	5
10. Magistrates	1,099	7	2	928	17	8	1,720	13	9	1,596	15	4	548	9	11	625	16	8
11. Police	3,533	15	10	3,537	15	2	3,073	11	9	3,123	2	11	1,745	16	7	1,736	16	4
12. Prisons	1,769	12	2	2,329	13	1½	1,433	19	10	1,588	[illegible]	9	775	17	7	727	11	2
13. Medical	2,246	17	8	2,265	19	6	2,071	18	10	2,166	15	0	1,337	17	7	1,385	7	3½
14. Hospitals	6,713	4	6	7,446	14	2½	5,937	17	4	7,799	2	3	2,580	6	0	2,518	11	2½
15. Education	1,245	3	2	2,670	9	9½	1,252	10	11	2,073	11	4	1,019	11	9	1,542	4	6
16. Ecclesiastical	679	4	9	204	7	8	720	8	9	281	14	5	—			—		

Comparative Statement of Expenditure in each Presidency of the Colony in the years 1890 and 1891—*continued.*

Heads of Expenditure.	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.	
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
17. Board of Health - - -	2,542 15 0	2,676 18 10½	729 7 9	759 7 9	543 11 11	508 10 3½
18. Registration and Vaccination -	294 11 0	293 14 0	402 5 0	560 7 0	114 8 9	44 0 0
19. Public Market - - -	201 8 4	203 16 0	62 17 2	53 2 7	23 19 8	12 9 0
20. Public Library - - -	180 0 0	180 0 0	259 1 7	198 4 4	—	—
21. Laboratory - - -	470 7 11	402 15 8	—	30 16 5	—	—
22. Military - - - -	1,082 9 7	1,259 5 6	50 1 4	50 0 0	—	—
23. Miscellaneous - - -	1,889 13 7	1,265 3 10½	1,101 6 5	790 5 2	945 5 10	1,208 4 8
24. Post Office - - - -	1,662 17 8	1,440 19 9	1,346 8 5	1,287 1 11	532 10 5	742 16 8½
25. Telegraphs - - -	800 0 0	800 0 0	809 0 1	817 16 6	400 0 0	—
26. Telephones - - -	1,336 9 9	533 4 5	71 9 0	318 19 9	—	—
27. Public Works Department -	1,175 15 6	1,169 2 8	816 2 4	852 14 6	557 6 1	590 8 0
28. " " recurrent - -	5,580 6 5	4,460 6 0	4,872 10 6	3,772 5 6	2,735 8 3	2,050 2 10
Total - -	£45,684 15 3	43,493 8 1½	36,928 15 8	39,820 4 8½	23,607 10 0	22,009 8 1
29. Public Works Extraordinary -	4,457 13 6	3,815 6 4½	6,163 5 2	5,400 10 9	610 0 0	2,927 7 10
Total - -	£50,142 8 9	47,309 3 6	43,092 0 10	45,220 15 5½	24,217 10 0	24,936 15 11

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Comparative Statement of Expenditure in each Presidency of the Colony in the years 1890 and 1891—*continued.*

Heads of Expenditure.	Montserrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total Colony.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1891.	1891.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Charges on account public works	245 0 0	218 0 0	—	—	8,019 10 6	3,873 8 11	—	4,146 1 7
2. Pensions - - -	233 12 4	117 9 3	134 16 2	134 16 2	3,970 11 10	4,320 7 1	349 15 3	—
3. Legislative - - -	—	—	5 0 0	5 0 0	230 17 0	230 0 0	—	0 17 0
4. Island Secretary - -	465 0 0	469 3 4	403 10 6	387 3 0	2,617 16 10	2,487 7 9½	—	130 9 0½
5. Federal contribution - -	617 8 11	915 15 3	198 15 2	288 17 4	8,750 10 1	10,598 0 4	1,847 10 3	—
6. Treasury and Customs -	378 8 3	352 14 2	165 13 7	168 11 3	7,135 6 5	7,625 16 2	490 9 9	—
7. Audit - - - -	—	—	—	—	214 1 0	220 0 0	5 19 0	—
8. Port and Marine - -	13 15 8	23 12 6½	—	—	854 2 10	730 6 6½	—	123 16 3½
9. Registrar and Provost Marshal	41 6 0	30 14 6	—	212 0 5	2,234 10 5	2,678 7 4	443 16 11	—
10. Magistrates - - -	24 0 0	24 0 0	52 9 0	13 0 0	3,444 19 10	3,188 9 8	—	256 10 2
11. Police - - - -	256 7 6	365 2 3	48 4 11	39 9 8	8,757 16 0	8,802 6 4	44 10 4	—
12. Prisons - - -	196 3 11	179 7 0½	141 18 8	142 17 1	4,317 12 2	4,968 7 2	650 15 0	—
13. Medical - - -	410 19 9	459 8 4	215 0 0	215 0 0	6,282 13 10	6,492 10 1½	209 16 3½	—
14. Hospitals - - -	920 16 11	915 7 5	264 12 0	276 8 7	16,416 16 9	18,956 3 8	2,539 6 11	—
15. Education - - -	339 9 0	649 18 11	101 16 0	119 6 0	3,958 10 10	7,055 10 6½	3,096 19 8½	—
16. Ecclesiastical - - -	458 15 0	458 15 0	12 0 0	12 0 0	1,870 8 6	956 17 1	—	913 11 5

Comparative Statement of Expenditure in each Presidency of the Colony in the years 1890 and 1891—*continued.*

Heads of Expenditure.	Montserrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total Colony.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
17. Board of Health	80 18 8	183 9 8	—	—	3,896 13 4	4,128 6 7	231 13 3	—
18. Registration and Vaccination	85 15 8	45 4 11	14 1 0	20 4 0	911 1 5	963 9 11	52 8 6	—
19. Public Market	34 18 6	34 16 0	—	—	323 3 9	304 3 7	—	19 0 2
20. Public Library	50 0 0	50 0 0	—	—	489 1 7	428 4 4	—	60 17 3
21. Laboratory	—	—	—	—	470 7 11	433 12 1	—	36 15 10
22. Military	—	—	—	—	1,132 10 11	1,309 5 6	176 14 7	—
23. Miscellaneous	127 16 6	597 14 2	67 0 0	83 6 0	4,131 2 4	3,944 13 10½	—	186 8 5½
24. Post Office	92 15 2	193 2 1	22 13 11	50 4 7	3,657 5 7	3,714 5 0½	56 19 5½	—
25. Telegraphs	—	—	—	—	2,009 0 1	1,617 16 6	—	391 3 7
26. Telephones	—	—	—	—	1,407 18 9	852 4 2	—	555 14 7
27. Public Works Department	74 2 3	131 6 8	—	—	2,623 6 2	2,743 11 10	120 5 8	—
28. " " recurrent	849 10 1	572 8 3½	33 7 10	25 10 2	14,071 3 1	10,880 12 9½	—	3,190 10 3½
Total - £	6,097 0 1	6,987 9 9½	1,880 18 9	2,193 14 3	114,198 19 9	114,504 4 11½	10,317 0 10½	10,011 15 8
29. Public Works Extraordinary	630 18 8	315 16 2	100 0 0	25 12 0	11,961 17 4	12,484 13 1½	522 15 9½	—
Total - £	6,727 18 9	7,303 5 11½	1,980 18 9	2,219 6 3	126,160 17 1	126,988 18 1	10,839 16 8	10,011 15 8

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3.—PUBLIC DEBT.

Antigua paid off the balance due on the 6 per cent. loan of 2,500*l.* raised in 1871, for the extension of the water supply, and the amount due to the St. John's Savings Bank was reduced from 7,000*l.* to 6,800*l.* The amount of the original debt incurred in 1881, was 8,890*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.* The sinking fund for the ultimate payment of the 5,171*l.* six per cent. debentures issued in 1880, was raised from 1,555*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* to 1,735*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* and that for the loan of 12,000*l.* obtained in 1885, 1888, and 1890 for the water works, was increased from 956*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* to 1,339*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*

Debentures bearing interest at 4 per centum per annum were issued to the extent of 11,200*l.*, a loan of 25,000*l.* for the improvement of the water supply of the island having been authorised in 1890.

In St. Kitts out of the 9,000*l.* authorised for the improvement of the town of Basseterre 2,000*l.* was obtained, and out of the 23,500*l.* authorised for certain public works, 7,500*l.* was raised. The provisions of the ordinances requiring contributions to be made annually to the sinking funds, for the extinction of the two 1885 loans, and for the 1889 loan (3,900*l.*, 8,000*l.*, 9,000*l.*) were duly carried out.

In Dominica the amount to the 1875 and 1887 credit of the Roseau Water Works loans of 5,900*l.* was increased to 3,008*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* To the credit of the Public Works Loan of 1880 (5,000*l.*) there was a sum of 602*l.* 5*s.* 2*d*, and to that of the 1888 and 1890 loans (30,000*l.*) a sum of 325*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*

In Montserrat the sinking funds, received their usual annual contributions, and a sum of 4,500*l.* was raised for Public Works.

4.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Omitting the cost of the departments, 2,744*l.*, the expenditure on the Public Works undertaken during 1891, was 23,365*l.*, or less by 2,668*l.* than in the previous year On what may be called usual and annually necessary works 10,881*l.* was spent, while upon the unforeseen works, or works of an exceptional and special character, there was an outlay of 12,484*l.*

The expenditure in each Presidency was as follows :—

Presidency.	Recurrent.		Extraordinary.		Total Expenditure.
	Estimated.	Spent.	Estimated.	Spent.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	4,568	4,460	500	3,815	8,275
St. Kitts-Nevis	3,848	3,772	—	5,401	9,173
Dominica	2,580	2,050	883	2,927	4,977
Montserrat	546	573	200	316	889
Virgin Islands	50	26	—	25	51
Total	11,592	10,881	1,583	12,484	23,365

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The annually recurrent expenditure is made up as follows :—

—	Antigua.	St. Kitts.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Repairs to public buildings	518	315	675	48	15	1,571
Repairs &c., to roads, streets, and bridges	3,179	2,388	925	400	11	6,903
Water works	217	116	9	35	—	377
Fire brigade	124	333	—	—	—	457
Botanical and public gardens	50	154	402	78	—	684
Burial grounds, &c.	196	202	18	12	—	428
Government House and grounds	176	7	21	—	—	204
Miscellaneous	—	257	—	—	—	257
Total	4,460	3,772	2,050	573	26	10,881

Various circumstances combined to compel the Government to execute many of the works classed as unforeseen. In Dominica the exceptionally heavy and disastrous floods necessitated a larger outlay upon the roads, in Anguilla the severe famine led to the expenditure on relief works, in St. Kitts additional hospital accommodation was urgently needed ; here also, and at Antigua, the immediate necessity for an extension and alteration of the prison buildings was prominently brought to notice, while, as in the case of the telephone system, it was found that to meet growing demands progress necessitating outlay had to be made.

Although the whole of the 12,484*l.* spent upon exceptional works has formed a charge upon the current revenue, I think the expenditure upon the Pogson Hospital, the Anguilla Relief Works, the Roseau Embankment, extra roads, and other works, amounting in all to some 10,000*l.*, might fairly be met by loans.

Out of the funds raised by loan, much has been done to advance the interests of the Colony. In Antigua progress has been made with the scheme to supply the estates and villages with water, and various water-courses have been cleared and deepened ; in St. Kitts a leper asylum was provided, the town of Basseterre improved, Stone Fort Road and a new Treasury building commenced ; in Nevis considerable attention was paid to the roads and to the water supply.

In Montserrat the streets of Plymouth and many of the roads throughout the island have been much improved.

In Dominica a carriage road over 15 miles of very difficult country, and necessitating the erection of about 24 bridges and 120 culverts, was brought nearly to completion ; various other roads

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and several bridges opening up the interior of the island were completed and started upon.

5.—LEGISLATION.

The General Legislative Council was in session from the 23rd April to the 2nd May, and again by adjournment from the 12th to the 25th November. It passed 15 bills. Six of these received assent and were promulgated during 1891, 8 during 1892. One has been reserved.

Of the six which became law in 1891, three were money Bills, two amending Bills, and one, the most important, arranged for the establishment and maintenance of training schools. Further provision was made for elementary education and industrial training, our turtle fisheries were protected and restrictions placed upon immigrant paupers.

By the Small Charges Act (No. 11), which consolidates the law relating to certain offences punishable on summary conviction 21 ordinances or Acts of the several Presidencies were either totally or in part repealed, and by the Acts (12 and 13) to consolidate the laws relating to small trespasses and to the summary recovery of small tenements 14 Acts or ordinances were wholly repealed.

The five local Legislatures of the Colony passed between them 21 Bills, seven of which related to supplies and five to the Census, three continued in force certain Acts about to expire, two (at Montserrat) amended ordinances relating to taxes, three authorised the raising of loans to the amount of 34,500*l.* for various public works, and one provided for the improvement of the water supply in Montserrat. All of these received assent and were promulgated during 1891.

6.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Sir Henry T. Wrenfordsley, Knight, replaced Sir Henry Ludlow, Knight, as Chief Justice, the latter being pensioned. For a period of about five months the Attorney-General (Mr. C. G. Walpole) acted as Chief Justice, the Solicitor-General (Mr. C. H. Beard) acting as Attorney-General.

Four medical officers, Drs. Kirkpatrick, Cook, Nurse, and Forward, joined the staff, the last named having been appointed resident medical officer to the public hospital in Antigua, to which institution a European matron (Miss Freeth) was also appointed. Mr. C. A. Barber was appointed to the newly-created office of Superintendent of Agriculture, Mr. Mackay was

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appointed magistrate at Anguilla, and two European officers were attached to the prison service.

Mr. Latouche was transferred from the office of Registrar and Provost Marshal in Dominica to a similar office in St. Kitts, and was succeeded in Dominica by Mr. Edwin Baynes.

The office of Postmaster in Antigua, rendered vacant by the death of Mr. Read, was filled by the appointment of Mr. A. E. Eldridge.

Mr. Shepherd was appointed Superintendent of the Training School at Skerretts.

Mr. Edward Baynes, the Commissioner of Montserrat, acted as Commissioner of Dominica, while Mr. Le Hunte was on leave, and was succeeded at Montserrat by Mr. W. M. Gordon.

Mr. Field acted as Solicitor-General, Mr. N. Lockhart, Mr. R. Roden, and Mr. Chambers as magistrates for varying periods, and in addition to several other acting appointments some small offices changed hands.

7. PENSIONS.

During 1891, seven public officers retired on pension, viz.:— the Chief Justice (Sir Henry Ludlow), a Treasury official (Mr. Chittick), three policemen, a gaol warder, and a hospital servant.

Between them they increased the amount annually payable in superannuation allowances by the sum of 379*l.* 5*s.* 0*d.* and brought the total on the 31st December, 1891, to 4,367*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* No pensioners died.

The amount payable by each presidency is as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Antigua	951	5	8
St. Kitts-Nevis	2,494	19	8
Dominica	643	14	7
Montserrat	142	5	1
Virgin Islands	134	16	2

8. POPULATION.

There were registered during the year 5,148 births, 546 marriages, and 4,163 deaths.

On the 5th April, when the census was taken, the population was 127,723 (5,070 whites, 23,320 coloured and 99,333 blacks);

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between that date and the end of the year there were registered 3,897 births and 2,886 deaths, raising the population on the 31st December, 1891, to 128,734.

Over 54 per cent. of the children born were illegitimate.

Presidency.	Population on 5th April, 1891.	Births.	Deaths.	Population on 31st December, 1891.	Marriages.
		Since registered.			
Antigua	36,119	1,283	1,022	36,380	169
Barbuda	580	26	24	582	5
Redonda	120	—	—	120	—
St. Kitts	30,876	972	605	31,243	163
Nevis	13,087	436	360	13,163	56
Anguilla	3,699	85	85	3,699	17
Dominica	26,841	605	373	27,073	58
Montserrat	11,762	348	355	11,755	53
Virgin Islands	4,639	142	62	4,719	25
Total	127,723	3,897	2,886	128,734	546

9.—ECCLESIASTICAL.

According to the returns sent in by the clergy of the various denominations the Colony possesses 127 places of worship, with accommodation for 55,450 persons, distributed as follows:—

Presidency.	Anglican.			Moravian.			Wesleyan.			Roman Catholic.		
	Churches.	Accommodation.	Attendance.	Churches.	Accommodation.	Attendance.	Churches.	Accommodation.	Attendance.	Churches.	Accommodation.	Attendance.
Antigua - - - -	16	4,680	3,910	13	6,220	4,090	12	5,300	3,570	1	400	300
Barbuda - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	100	50	—	—	—
St. Kitts - - - -	10	3,740	2,910	4	2,950	1,400	13	5,780	4,830	1	600	350
Nevis - - - -	5	2,400	1,850	4	2,550	2,100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anguilla - - -	1	200	50	—	—	—	1	200	150	—	—	—
Dominica - - -	1	500	300	—	—	—	8	1,930	1,430	15	10,800	6,400
Montserrat - - -	4	2,050	1,800	—	—	—	5	1,250	980	—	—	—
Virgin Islands - - -	4	500	210	—	—	—	8	3,300	1,035	—	—	—
Total - -	41	14,070	11,030	21	11,720	7,590	48	17,860	12,045	17	11,800	7,050

10.—EDUCATION.

The provisions of the compulsory Education Act of 1890 applied during 1891 to the following districts, viz:—

St. John's, in the island of Antigua.

Basseterre, in the island of St. Kitts.

Roseau, in the island of Dominica.

The village of the island of Barbuda.

The islands of Nevis, Montserrat, Tortola, and Virgin Gorda.

There was an educational officer for each district.

There were 125 primary and 6 secondary schools.

Of the primary schools 109 received Government aid and 16 are entirely Government schools. All but the Government schools, the Mico, and the Olveston are denominational.

At the primary schools the numbers on the roll increased from 13,677 in 1890 to 17,686 in 1891, and the average attendance from 7,487 to 8,211.

The Government grants increased from a total of 3,631*l.* 2*s.* to 5,260*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*

The school fees were about the same in 1891 as in 1890 (602*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* and 609*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* respectively), but there was a considerable falling off in the private contributions, only 805*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* having been received in 1891 as against 1,031*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* in 1890.

The large augmentation in the numbers on the roll and daily attending school is due entirely to the bringing into operation in the towns of the Compulsory Education Act and the large decrease in the amount of private aid clearly demonstrates that the maintenance of the schools will more and more fall on the Government, which can, I think, only relieve itself of an annually increasing burthen by the erection of central schools, and thus, while minimizing expenditure, provide for more practical and effective education at a comparatively small cost.

As showing the expenditure on primary schools in each Presidency the following statement may be found useful:—

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1891.

Presidency.	Number of Schools.	Number on the Rolls.	Average Attendance.	School Fees.	Government Grants.	Private Contributions.	Total Receipts.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Antigua - - - -	40	5,036	2,291	234 9 5	1,587 13 1	442 16 3	2,264 18 9
St. Kitts - - - -	30	4,812	2,197	104 11 2	1,222 16 8	134 19 4	1,462 7 2
Nevis - - - -	16	2,152	990	67 1 5	499 13 0	72 19 7	639 14 0
Dominica - - - -	22	2,784	1,247	106 14 8	1,415 19 6	20 14 0	1,543 8 2
Montserrat - - - -	12	2,411	1,278	68 18 3	410 13 0	102 18 11	582 10 2
Virgin Islands - - -	5	491	208	20 19 6	123 6 0	31 5 2	175 10 8
Total - -	125	17,686	8,211	602 14 5	5,260 1 3	805 13 3	6,668 8 11

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Of the six secondary schools four are undenominational, one is Wesleyan, and one Moravian.

Between them they had 205 scholars on the rolls, with a total average attendance of 201. All are in receipt of Government grants except the Wesleyan Coke Memorial College, and arrangements for a grant to this school have been made.

The attendance at school of all children between the ages of 5 and 12 is compulsory under the Education Act, and from the Census of 1891 it would appear that there were some 26,000 children of these ages, while the pupils and teachers are shown as numbering 24,543 (pupils and teachers are not given separately). The returns of the inspector of schools, however, account for only 17,891 pupils, leading to the conclusion that some 7,000 or 8,000 children have yet to be brought into the schools, and this will probably be effected when the whole Colony is declared under the operation of the Act.

Out of a total population of 127,723 there are 37,715 who on the Sabbath generally attend some place of worship, and as the population include 34,359 children under the age of ten the percentage of church goers (40·4) is creditable.

11.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The gross value of the imports is returned at 419,286*l.*, that of the exports at 412,800*l.*

From the United Kingdom we received imports to the value of 180,060*l.* as against 219,074*l.* in 1890; but in this year, as in 1889, the total was raised by the exceptional importation of new machinery for the manufacture of sugar; there was, however, a general decrease in the articles of import, the natural sequence of a bad cane crop. The United States of America and British North America have steadily increased their exports to this Colony. During the last three years they were:—

—	1889.	1890.	1891.
	£	£	£
United States - - - -	143,153	147,212	159,144
British North America - - -	17,890	19,823	20,388

Barbados, on the other hand, is gradually losing ground, and is ceasing to be, as it formerly was, a depôt for these islands.

Our imports of corn, flour, meal, and pickled fish from the United States of America showed the most noticeable increase, while with regard to British North America it will be observed that a trade in cane manures and flour is commencing.

The produce of the Colony was valued at 392,997*l.*, and was principally made up of sugar 298,391*l.*, molasses 33,010*l.*, fruits and fruit juices (limes) 23,065*l.*, and coffee and cocoa 13,919*l.* The bulk of the exports went to the United States of America, which took sugar to the value of 284,594*l.*, fruits 5,088*l.*, molasses 3,120*l.*, and other articles, making a total of 296,754*l.*

To the United Kingdom we shipped a greater proportion of our exports than last year. They were valued at 52,431*l.* as against 41,698*l.* in 1890, when the exports of the Colony were greater. They included fruit and fruit juices to the value of 16,696*l.*, coffee and cocoa 13,310*l.*, sugar 12,029*l.*, rum 3,795*l.*, and molasses 5,590*l.* The proportion of exports to British North America fell off slightly, the figures being as 5·58 to 6·92. Only 31*l.* worth of sugar was shipped thence, as against 4,130*l.* in 1890.

Our chief staple, sugar, fell from 36,954 tons to 27,677, and molasses from 12,920 puncheons to 9,124. The falling off in these was general throughout the Colony, and due to the want of rain in the early part of the year. A good trade is springing up in fruit and fruit juices, and the shipments increased from 16,418*l.* in 1890 to 23,065*l.* in 1891.

In 1890 there were no shipments of fruit from Antigua, but in 1891 they were valued at 1,751*l.*, and consisted chiefly of the pines for which the island has a high reputation. The Dominica and Montserrat shipments, composed mostly of limes, which grow luxuriantly in both islands, were valued at 10,166*l.* and 10,019*l.* respectively.

In coffee and cocoa a large advance was made in Dominica, which increased its output from 410,330 lbs. in 1890 to 777,704 lbs. in 1891. St. Kitts and Montserrat also made efforts in this direction. In St. Kitts, including the salt ponds of Anguilla, the export of salt rose from 15,065 barrels to 30,532. Of the total value of the exports from the Virgin Islands (4,663*l.*) the trade in cattle and small stock accounted for 3,705*l.*; there was a slight falling off in this trade during the year.

The "internal trade," or trade between the islands of the Colony, fostered as it is by the Federal steamer "Tyne," is developing; it was valued at 30,460*l.* in 1891, as against 27,978*l.* in 1890, and there is every reason to hope that a far more extended trade will ultimately result.

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VALUE OF THE COLONY'S TRADE WITH THE COUNTRIES SPECIFIED.

Countries.	Imports from				Exports to			
	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	184,150	201,159	219,074	180,060	59,970	54,445	41,698	52,431
British North America - -	15,931	17,890	19,832	20,388	36,965	51,331	35,576	22,051
Barbados - - -	26,757	28,390	27,633	24,039	2,494	2,600	2,567	1,614
Other British Colonies - - -	5,849	3,811	3,963	3,178	595	1,351	2,578	1,131
United States of America - -	147,531	143,151	147,212	159,695	377,693	545,388	387,223	296,754
Other Foreign countries - -	13,301	21,812	20,180	16,995	18,545	19,810	29,812	23,290
	£393,519	416,215	437,885	404,355	496,262	674,925	499,454	397,271
Internal Trade - - -	11,691	12,764	13,875	14,931	13,547	14,858	14,103	15,529
Total - -	£405,210	428,979	451,760	419,286	509,809	689,783	513,557	412,800

VALUES OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF IMPORT FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES.

United Kingdom.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1891 as against 1890.	
				Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£
Alcoholic liquors -	9,264	8,406	8,908	502	—
Boots and shoes -	7,803	8,982	6,697	—	2,285
Coal, &c. - -	2,508	1,490	1,132	—	358
Cottons and woollens -	58,138	60,842	53,376	—	7,466
Earthen and glass ware	2,520	2,767	2,134	—	633
Fancy goods, toys, &c.	2,403	2,662	2,042	—	620
Rice - - -	7,104	7,538	8,847	1,309	—
Government stores -	5,892	7,722	4,625	—	3,097
Haberdashery, &c. -	22,886	27,544	24,093	—	3,451
Hardware - -	14,775	16,729	12,984	—	3,745
Leather and saddlery -	3,740	3,394	2,531	—	863
Sugar machinery -	10,628	16,814	6,289	—	10,525
Manures - -	15,424	15,823	10,889	—	4,934
Groceries - -	4,096	4,783	4,883	100	—
Soap - - -	3,648	3,281	3,607	326	—
Other articles - -	30,258	30,297	27,023	—	3,274
	201,159	219,074	180,060	2,237	41,251

British North America.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1891 as against 1890.	
				Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£
Fish, dried and pickled	12,649	12,160	12,808	648	—
White pine and spruce	3,966	4,202	2,202	—	2,000
Manures - -	—	8	1,005	997	—
Flour - - -	—	10	1,155	1,145	—
Other articles - -	1,276	3,443	3,218	—	225
	17,890	19,823	20,388	2,790	2,225

Barbados.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1891 as against 1890.	
				Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£
Cottons and woollens -	2,270	1,454	1,770	316	—
Manures - -	1,860	1,580	410	—	1,170
Fish, dried and pickled	9,414	9,968	7,061	—	2,907
Flour - - -	1,770	2,573	2,135	—	438
Shooks - -	1,522	1,361	461	—	900
Other articles - -	9,164	10,697	12,202	1,505	—
	26,000	27,633	24,039	1,821	5,415

United States of America.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1891 as against 1890.	
				Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£
Corn - - -	6,339	7,973	10,544	2,571	—
Bread biscuits - -	3,599	4,476	5,373	897	—
Flour - - -	42,299	50,456	56,811	6,355	—
Meal - - -	8,177	10,089	15,316	5,227	—
Meal oil and linseed -	5,430	6,810	6,414	—	396
Butter - - -	4,089	3,542	3,350	—	192
Cheese - -	1,675	1,789	1,280	—	509
Lard - - -	2,230	1,650	1,788	138	—
Pork - - -	15,365	11,679	12,309	630	—
Petroleum oil - -	3,525	3,233	2,945	—	288
Tobacco - -	4,823	3,523	2,595	—	928
White pine and spruce	2,767	6,926	5,106	—	1,820
Shooks - -	14,210	2,555	2,855	300	—
Pitch pine - -	1,539	3,418	3,764	346	—
Shingles, Cypress and Wallaba - -	1,173	1,302	1,404	102	—
Fish (dried and pickled)	1,690	1,951	3,621	1,670	—
Beef (salted) - -	2,848	3,448	2,262	—	1,186
Miscellaneous articles of food - -	3,982	3,962	4,407	445	—
Other articles - -	17,393	18,430	17,551	—	879
	143,153	147,212	159,695	18,681	6,198

VALUES OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF EXPORT TO THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:—

United Kingdom.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1891 as against 1890.	
				Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£
Fruits and fruit juices -	8,935	12,421	16,696	4,275	—
Coffee and cocoa -	10,260	6,069	13,310	7,241	—
Rum - - -	2,284	478	3,795	3,317	—
Sugar - - -	28,097	19,079	12,029	—	7,050
Molasses - -	75	990	5,590	4,600	—
Other articles - -	4,794	2,661	1,011	—	1,650
	54,445	41,698	52,431	19,433	8,700

British North America.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1891 as against 1890.	
				Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£
Sugar - - -	9,436	4,130	31	—	4,099
Molasses - -	41,195	29,926	20,832	—	9,094
Other articles - -	700	1,520	1,188	—	332
	51,331	35,576	22,051	—	13,525

United States of America.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1891 as against 1890.	
				Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£
Fruits and fruit juices -	8,643	5,826	5,088	—	738
Sugar - - -	517,240	372,822	284,594	—	88,228
Molasses - -	17,294	5,288	3,120	—	2,168
Other articles - -	2,211	3,287	3,952	665	—
	545,388	387,223	296,754	665	91,134

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PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF EXPORT FROM EACH PRESIDENCY.

Articles.	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Montserrat.		Virgin Islands.		Colony.	
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	891.	1890.	1891.
Produce of the Colony.												
Fruits and fruit juices - £	—	1,751	180	721	9,175	10,166	7,063	10,019	85	408	16,418	28,065
Coffee and cocoa - - lbs.	—	—	—	1,500	410,330	777,704	61	195	—	—	410,391	779,399
Sugar - - - Tons	16,120	12,091	17,110	12,890	2,312	1,636	1,411	1,035	1	25	36,954	27,677
Rum - -Proof Gallons	—	—	34,650	74,401	1,226	498	—	—	—	—	35,876	74,899
Molasses - - - Puns.	7,541	5,059	4,598	3,686	410	188	391	198	—	—	12,920	9,124
Cattle - - - £	97	18	—	—	125	76	404	393	3,303	3,170	3,929	3,657
Essential oils and essences - £	—	—	—	—	932	1,049	363	567	—	—	1,295	1,616
Salt - - - Barrels	—	—	15,065	30,436	—	—	—	—	—	96	15,065	30,532
Turtle, tortoise and tortoise shells £	444	412	158	104	33	17	15	2	5	2	655	537
Foreign produce re-exported - £	1,523	2,050	7,672	9,055	1,099	440	72	46	2	306	10,368	11,897
Internal trade - - £	4,416	5,697	7,147	6,388	1,662	1,531	808	1,835	63	78	14,103	15,529

12.—SHIPPING.

In the accompanying tables, I show the direction of the trade during 1890 and 1891, and the number of steam and sailing vessels which have entered and cleared in these years. The figures in the latter statement represent the entries inwards and clearances outwards combined. Only one foreign trading vessel (a Norwegian steamer) arrived in the Colony. The increase in the steam vessel-traffic is due entirely to the running between the islands of the Colony of the steamer subsidized by the Government, and the falling off in the number of sailing vessels is due mainly to the same cause, but partly to the commercial depression experienced throughout the year.

Leeward Islands.

—	1889.				1890.				1891.			
	Steam.		Sailing.		Steam.		Sailing.		Steam.		Sailing.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British - - -	308	331,970	582	27,563	374	396,934	645	29,675	476	414,190	681	25,611
Foreign - - -	—	—	127	26,431	20	23,680	137	19,558	—	—	107	16,201
St. Kitts-Nevis.												
British	314	331,206	1,045	37,225	392	412,238	1,194	28,692	442	406,980	1,379	29,413
Foreign - - -	—	—	816	19,717	26	25,406	1,040	21,725	—	—	932	21,092
Dominica.												
British - - -	252	283,918	492	11,044	294	314,756	602	12,723	368	368,676	548	13,191
Foreign - - -	—	—	76	1,004	10	11,396	142	3,942	2	550	101	1,216
Montserrat.												
British - - -	214	292,182	455	15,235	220	237,754	513	15,272	344	331,560	526	12,886
Foreign - - -	—	—	69	1,206	2	2,840	48	894	—	—	68	1,285
Virgin Islands.												
British - - -	—	—	3,484	8,358	—	—	3,329	8,179	62	16,988	2,824	6,656
Foreign - - -	—	—	13	148	—	—	68	723	—	—	69	571
Total - { British -	1,08	1,239,276	6,058	99,425	1,280	1,361,682	6,283	94,541	1,692	1,538,394	5,958	87,757
Total - { Foreign -	—	—	1,101	48,506	58	63,322	1,435	46,842	2	550	1,277	40,365
Total - -	1,088	1,239,276	7,159	147,931	1,338	1,425,004	7,718	141,383	1,694	1,538,944	7,235	128,122

Entered from								Countries.	Cleared to							
1890.				1891.					1891.				1890.			
Steam.		Sailing.		Steam.		Sailing.			Steam.		Sailing.		Steam.		Sailing.	
No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
								BRITISH PORTS.								
12	11,507	4	1,040	6	5,790	3	576	United Kingdom - - -	2	1,951	2	333	5	5,244	1	233
35	34,464	271	20,377	18	18,401	194	15,601	British West Indies - -	17	15,690	157	8,928	29	27,709	224	9,726
7	5,786	—	—	—	—	—	—	Bermuda - - - - -	8	8,870	—	—	7	5,910	—	—
—	—	21	2,457	—	—	19	2,186	British North America - -	—	—	31	4,213	—	—	37	5,192
—	—	6	572	—	—	—	—	British Guiana - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	36
369	383,287	672	14,799	549	443,763	850	15,969	Leeward Islands (Internal trade).	547	442,248	862	16,520	352	374,862	661	14,425
423	435,044	974	39,245	573	467 954	1,066	34,332		574	468,759	1,052	29,994	393	413,725	924	29,612
								FOREIGN PORTS.								
29	25,994	35	7,849	11	10,485	33	8,525	United States - - -	34	33,166	47	11,577	31	27,926	61	14,530
164	188,454	405	10,716	196	222,414	399	9,089	French - - - - -	174	207,886	368	5,341	184	198,886	404	7,106
5	5,019	709	7,075	3	2,647	608	6,350	Dutch - - - - -	2	1,082	626	8,491	—	—	715	9,485
51	61,139	1,707	4,953	64	65,972	1,504	4,318	Danish - - - - -	56	51,913	1,469	5,555	48	56,213	1,736	6,957
—	—	8	548	—	—	15	1,045	Spanish - - - - -	4	3,915	19	2,450	7	10,022	11	1,636
—	—	1	180	—	—	—	—	Portuguese - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Mexican and Central America -	3	2,751	2	591	3	2,582	1	293
—	—	2	295	—	—	2	313	Brazil and South America -	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	648
—	—	14	153	—	—	2	15	Hayti and San Domingo -	—	—	23	136	—	—	9	102
249	280,606	2,881	31,769	274	301,518	2,563	29,655		273	300,713	2,554	34,141	273	295,629	2,939	40,757
672	715,650	3,855	71,014	847	769,572	3,629	63,987		847	769,472	3,606	64,135	666	709,354	3,863	70,369

NOTE.—There appear 6 steamers, 6,296 tons, more entered than cleared in 1890. This error is in the Dominica return 1890.

13.—GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

2,225 persons were committed to the gaols during the year, 104 being for safe custody, and for want of security, and 2,121 for penal imprisonment. They consisted of 1,395 men, 784 women, and 46 juveniles. The total shows an increase of 118 over the figures of 1890. Of those committed to penal imprisonment, 245 had been previously convicted once, 226 twice, and 361 three times or more; 2,015 were committed for 3 months or less, 57 for more than 3 months, 44 for 12 months or more, and 5 for five years or more.

With a larger number of prisoners in 1891, the admissions to hospital were fewer than in 1890, being 308 as against 374. In Antigua Gaol, where there were 728 prisoners, the admissions numbered 47. St. Kitts, with 750 prisoners, returns 65; Nevis, with 132, returns 81; and Dominica, with 494, returns 115. In Montserrat, with 100 prisoners, there were no admissions to hospital.

The sanitary condition of all the gaols was equally good throughout the year, and yet in St. Kitts, Nevis and Dominica, where the daily average number of prisoners in confinement was far less than in Antigua, there appear to have been a greater number of sick.

Gaol.	Daily Average.	No. of Admissions.
Antigua - - - -	135	47
St. Kitts - - - -	41	65
Nevis - - - -	11	81
Dominica - - - -	24	115
Montserrat - - - -	5	—
Virgin Islands - - -	3	—

I can offer no satisfactory explanation of this, unless it be that in some gaols prisoners are more readily admitted to hospital than in others.

The punishments apparently increased from 685 in 1890 to 1,444 in 1891, but the latter include 886 trivial punishments, which in previous years would not have been recorded.

In the Antigua Gaol, on an average there were only four punishments a day, with a daily average of 135 prisoners, and

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there the 1,310 punishments were borne by 257 prisoners, several of whom show as many as 37 entries against their names

There were no escapes during the year. There were 6 deaths, all at Antigua. Two from syncope, two from bronchitis, one from heart disease, and one from fever.

The prisons in Antigua, St. Kitts and Dominica, underwent several much needed alterations to the cells, and other parts of the buildings; in Antigua the work was performed entirely by prison labour. These alterations, with the increased attention and supervision which has been given, have resulted in a very marked improvement in discipline. But there can be no proper discipline in either gaol until arrangements be made for separate cells instead of association wards.

In Antigua and St. Kitts cranks were introduced, and in the former prison a mechanical arrangement to control and record the number of revolutions of the treadwheel has been of much advantage.

During the year several industries were introduced into the Antigua Gaol. Prisoners now make and bake the bread and biscuits for their own consumption as well as for the public hospital, the poor house and lunatic and leper asylums; they make, mend and wash their own clothing, make the uniforms for the prison officers of the Colony, and also boots for themselves, their officers, the police and charitable institutions. They also make and mend carts for prison use, and have been taught to quarry and dress stones for building purposes. A small stone bridge or culvert has recently been erected in the public park, which reflects some credit upon the prison. No interference with local trades has occurred, nor has there been any competition with the public, but already many prisoners have been taught trades of which they had no previous knowledge, while, in addition to the more economical administration of the gaol effected, several lads have left prison at the expiration of their sentences qualified to earn their living at the trade taught during confinement.

14.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the police or magistrate was 165,596.

For offences against the person - - -	3793
Prædial larceny - - - -	1377
Against property other than prædial larceny -	2512
Other offences - - - - -	8914

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and for these offences 16,087 persons were taken before the magistrates, 7,915 of whom were discharged, 8,001 summarily convicted, and 171 committed for trial in the Supreme Court.

Nature of offences.	Reported to the police.	Discharged for want of evidence.	Dismissed on merits.	Summarily convicted.	Sent for trial.	Total.
Offences against the person - -	3,793	1,307	860	1,533	78	3,778
Prædial rceny -	1,377	507	174	680	6	1,367
Offences against property other than prædial larceny - -	2,512	988	437	960	58	2,443
Other offences -	8,914	1,716	1,926	4,828	29	8,499
Total - -	16,596	4,518	3,397	8,001	171	16,087

Of those summarily convicted 5,400 paid fines, 1,718 were committed to prison in lieu of payment of fines, 537 were peremptorily imprisoned, 79 whipped, and 267 bound over.

2,800 were convicted in Antigua, 2,540 in St. Kitts and Nevis, 2,266 in Dominica, 313 in Montserrat, and 82 in the Virgin Islands.

Punishment.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
Fined - - -	2,096	1,517	1,527	201	59	5,400
Imprisoned in lieu of fine - - -	438	669	534	65	12	1,718
Peremptorily imprisoned -	225	214	55	36	7	537
Whipped - -	—	54	14	11	—	79
Bound over - -	41	86	136	—	4	267
Totals - -	2,800	2,540	2,266	313	82	8,001

In the Supreme Court, in addition to the 171 cases committed for trial in 1891, there were heard 57 cases which remained over from 1890.

There were 142 convictions, 38 acquittals, 13 nolle prosequi and 35 cases held over.

—	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
Pending end of 1890	39	18	—	—	—	57
Committed in 1891	73	41	30	5	22	
Total -	112	59	30	5	22	228
Convicted - -	72	33	18	3	16	142
Acquitted - -	14	9	11	2	2	38
Nolle prosequi -		4	1	—	1	13
Still pending - -	19	13	—	—	3	35
Total -	112	59	30	5	22	228

There was a falling off in crime as compared with the year 1890, the convictions being only 6·37 per cent. of the population instead of nearly 8 per cent. Only 16,087 cases were tried, as against 19,812 in 1890, and although the returns show an increase of convictions in the superior courts (142 in 1891, 96 in 1890) those of the magistrates' courts show a considerable falling off, 8,001 as against 8,421.

The Colony passed through a very trying year; there was a general depression in trade, a feeling of uncertainty as to the future engendered by the McKinley Tariff Bill, and there was a very serious famine in Anguilla. That there should in these circumstances have been a decrease in crime is remarkable, but I attribute the fact to the policy of the Government in finding employment for the people on various public works.

Presidency.	Population.	Number convicted or bound over.	Percentage.
Antigua, (with Barbuda 580, and Redonda 120)	36,819	2,872	7·80
St. Kitts-Nevis, (with Anguilla 3,669) -	47,662	2,573	5·39
Dominica- - -	26,841	2,284	8·50
Montserrat - -	11.762	316	2·68
Virgin islands - -	4,639	98	2·10
Colony - - -	127,723	8,143	6·37

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15.—CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS

The returns show that 3,349 cases were treated in the eight hospitals of the Colony during the year. These figures include 135 persons admitted as paupers to the Cunningham Hospital, St. Kitts. At the end of the year 559 persons remained under treatment, 431 patients having died, 1,608 having been discharged cured, 690 as relieved and 61 as not improved. There were 1,466 medical cases with 342 deaths, 858 surgical cases with 63 deaths, 203 obstetrical cases with two deaths, and among the 687 treated for diseases to special senses, there were 24 deaths.

There were 164 cases of yaws in the Yaws Hospital at Dominica.

The deaths totalled 431, and were 13·41 per cent. of the cases treated; but, as I have stated in a previous report, the large majority of persons only go to hospital when they are in a more or less moribund state. Out of 215 deaths in the hospital, Antigua, 69, or 32·55 per cent., occurred within 15 days of admission.

The following tables give details for each hospital:—

Hospitals.

—		Remaining at beginning of 1891.	Admitted in 1891.	Discharged			Dead.	Remaining at end of 1891.
				Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.		
Antigua	Male -	26	514	274	154	—	87	25
	Female	62	669	169	252	—	128	182
St. KITTS-NEVIS.								
Cunningham	Male -	55	577	384	95	1	72	80
	Female	60	475	336	76	—	60	63
Sandy Point	Male -	11	56	23	12	2	12	18
	Female	12	37	22	5	—	11	11
Nevis	Male -	26	57	30	6	15	10	22
	Female	21	55	22	7	9	13	25
DOMINICA.								
Roseau	Male -	18	170	111	28	21	10	18
	Female	12	112	68	29	10	5	12
Yaws	Male -	18	77	84	3	—	—	8
	Female	15	51	52	3	—	—	11
Montserrat	Male -	26	32	11	8	1	9	29
	Female	41	56	19	9	1	13	54
Virgin Islands	Male -	1	4	2	3	—	—	—
	Female	—	4	1	—	1	1	1
Total -	-	404	2,945*	1,608	690	61	431	559

* Includes 135 St. Kitts paupers.

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—	Antigua.		Cunningham.		Sandy Point.		Nevis.		Dominica (two)		Montserrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Medical - - - -	710	188	368	95	45	17	88	17	110	8	143	17	2	—	1,466	342
Surgical - - - -	161	15	448	28	38	2	59	6	137	6	10	5	5	1	858	63
Obstetrical - - -	176	1	12	—	7	1	6	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	203	2
Special senses - - -	224	11	204	9	26	3	6	—	226	1	—	—	1	—	687	24
	1,271	215	1,032	132	116	23	159	23	473	15	154	22	9	1	3,214	431

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The appointment of an experienced European matron and of a medical officer to reside in the hospital at Antigua has been productive of much benefit and has resulted in the patients receiving more care and attention. The nursing staff at St. Kitts and Antigua benefited by the instruction received from a trained nurse who came out specially from England for temporary service in the Colony, and generally much has been done towards improving our hospital arrangements, but with regard to Antigua it is felt that a new hospital is very much needed, and that but little substantial progress can be made until one has been provided. The present hospital consists of a wing of the old military barracks ; one detached building of fair proportions, and four or five wooden huts scattered about the grounds.

The lunatic asylum at Rat Island, Antigua, is another building quite unfitted for the purpose to which it is placed, and in the erection of any new hospital building the requirements necessary in the more advanced treatment of lunacy should be borne in mind.

It will be seen from the accompanying tables that at the end of 1890 there were under treatment at the Rat Island and Ridge lunatic asylums 97 patients, and that 50 additional were received during 1891 from the various Presidencies, 20 inmates died and 13 were discharged temporarily cured, leaving a total of 114 at the end of the year, 78 at Rat Island and 35 convalescing at the Ridge.

Rat Island.

—	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Mont-serrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Remaining end of 1890 -	17	15	4	8	8	3	3	4	3	1	35	31
Admitted in 1891 - -	15	16	2	2	4	6	2	—	1	2	24	26
Total -	32	31	6	10	12	9	5	4	4	3	59	57
Sent to the Ridge - -	11	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	3
Total -	21	30	5	8	12	9	5	4	4	3	47	54
Discharged - - -	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	4
Balance -	21	29	5	7	12	8	5	3	4	3	47	50
Died - - - -	7	7	1	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	12	7
Remaining end of 1891 -	14	22	4	7	10	8	3	3	4	3	35	43

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

The Ridge.

—	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Mont-serrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Remaining end of 1890	6	11	5	3	3	1	1	1	—	—	15	16
Admitted in 1891	11	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	3
Total	17	12	6	5	3	1	1	1	—	—	27	19
Discharged	7	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	7	2
Balance	10	11	6	5	3	—	1	1	—	—	20	17
Died	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Remaining end of 1891	10	10	6	5	3	—	1	1	—	—	20	16

In the leper asylum at Rat Island, consisting of a few wooden huts and separated from main building by a wall, there were at the end of 1891 30 patients; 8 deaths occurred. There is no law in Antigua under which those suffering from leprosy can be compulsorily segregated and it is found very difficult to retain within the asylum those who voluntarily enter it, notwithstanding the fact that they are well cared for and better fed than in their own homes. In Antigua, however, there are but few cases of leprosy, the census only returning 45 in a population of 36,119.

Lepers at Rat Island, Antigua.

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining end of 1890	12	18	30
Admitted in 1891	6	3	9
Total	18	21	39
Discharged	1	—	1
Died	5	3	8
Remaining end of 1891	12	18	30

In St. Kitts a law providing for the maintenance at the public expense of leper paupers was passed in October 1890, and in 1891 an old military fort (Fort Charles), situated about a mile from the town of Sandy Point, was converted into a leper asylum. It

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

comprises about four acres of land enclosed by walls 30 feet high. It is close to the sea shore and has an ample supply of excellent water. 56 males and 32 females were inmates of the asylum, 14 died and 3 were discharged, 8 of the deaths were the result of dysentery, 1 of diarrhoea, and 5 of leprosy.

It is only in Antigua and Dominica that there are poor houses set apart for the reception of paupers, in the other Presidencies paupers become inmates of the hospitals whether they need professional treatment or not.

In the Antigua poor-house there were 76 paupers at the end of the year, the average daily number was 63. The sum of 314*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* was disbursed on out-door relief and was distributed among 215 people. 153 persons is the average number relieved weekly.

In Dominica 536*l.* was expended upon the inmates of the poor-house, who numbered 218. On the out-door relief list there were only seven persons.

The following are the details of the numbers received into the Antigua and Dominica poor-houses :—

—	Antigua.			Dominica.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining end of 1890	13	45	58	42	36	78
Admitted in 1891	45	65	110	80	60	140
Total	58	110	168	122	96	218
Discharged	28	54	82	73	40	113
Died	3	7	10	17	30	47
Remaining end of 1891	27	49	76	32	26	58

On the 14th May 1891 an act was passed for the establishment and management of training schools. Under this Act children under the age of 16, may, in certain circumstances, be sent to a training school until attaining the age of 18. In June 1891 a training school in Antigua (Skerrett's School) was ready for the reception of boys, and in the seven months to the end of the year admitted 117 from the various parts of the Colony. The following table shows the number received from each Presidency, and, with other particulars, that 68 per cent. of the children could neither read nor write on their reception :—

—	Numbers received.	8 to 10 years of age.	10 to 13 years of age.	13 to 16 years of age.	Neither read nor write.	Read and write imperfectly.	Read and write fairly well.	Could say alphabet.
Antigua - - -	45	11	20	14	29	6	6	4
St. Kitts - - -	37	6	13	18	25	5	2	5
Nevis - - -	24	4	14	6	17	1	3	3
Dominica - - -	5	—	5	—	3	1	—	1
Montserrat - - -	6	1	4	1	6	—	—	—
Virgin Islands - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - -	117	22	56	39	80	13	11	13

Four boys were discharged during the year, one, an idiot, returned to the poor-house, one was ill with phthisis and sent to the public hospital, and one died of ague after a few hours' illness. 178 cases were treated in the hospital attached to the school; they chiefly consisted of malarial fever, 60; ulcers, 41; diarrhœa, 33; and dysentery, 13.

The boys spend a fixed number of hours in school each week and are drilled regularly.

Some 62 acres of land were cleared and brought under cultivation during the year. A stock farm established in connection with the school promises to be of considerable service in improving the breed of cattle and horses throughout the Colony.

In addition to the charitable institutions referred to there has been recently established in St. John's, Antigua, a crèche, or public nursery, where children may be left while their parents attend their daily avocations.

It is chiefly used by the field labourers and is fairly well patronised during what is called the "crop time."

16.—METEOROLOGICAL.

The results of the observations made at the Government Laboratory at Antigua are given in the accompanying table.

Taking the average of the daily maximum shade temperature, September is found to be the hottest month with an average maximum shade temperature of 89° F. The highest shade temperature recorded in any single day was 93° F. on October 3. Taking the average of the daily minimum temperature, March is found to be the coldest month, the lowest temperature recorded being 60° F. on the 19-20th of that month. The highest barometer reading was 30·30 inches (uncorrected for temperature) on February 15–16th and the lowest 29·92 on October 13th. The steady rise of the dew point, indicating an

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

increase in the amount of moisture in the atmosphere, from May to September and its decline from September to December is of interest from the fact that a similar rise and fall was observed to take place during the corresponding months of 1890, although the rainfall differed very markedly from that of 1891.

The rainfall for the year was 57·40 inches, the greatest fall recorded being 2·1 inches in the 24 hours ending 9 a.m. on April 20th and a similar amount on November 21st.

One cyclonic storm of great violence passed over this region in August. This storm, which was of small area but great intensity, passed over the island of Martinique on the evening of the 18th, causing great loss of life and property; its course thence was N.N.E., crossing Porto Rico and Florida and dying away in the northern part of the Gulf of Mexico on August 25th; at the same time a second cyclone (respecting which in its early stages little seems to be known) was travelling in a direction almost parallel to the previous one, gradually recurving from latitude 25 N. passing near Bermuda, and, finally recrossing the Atlantic from W. to E., it died out about 1st or 2nd September somewhere to the N.W. of the Scotch Coast. This storm appears to have been of large area, and affected the barometers at this station more than the storm passing over Martinique.

Another storm of small intensity appears to have originated about 100 miles west of Dominica on October 13th, and passing somewhat to the east of St. Croix developed into a storm of dangerous energy, travelling northward and eastward across the track of shipping between New York, Bermuda, and the West Indies. The low barometer of 13th October was due to the passing of this cyclone.

The tracks of several other cyclones originating between the 10–20th parallels of latitude were too distant to produce any marked effect at Antigua.

As will be seen by the following statement, the amount of rainfall varied in each Presidency of the Colony, and was highest in Dominica:—

—	Antigua.	St. Kitts.	Dominica.	Montserrat.
January	5·38	3·21	2·64	6·61
February	2·03	1·41	6·78	2·13
March	0·57	0·01	0·10	0·00
April	4·85	1·21	0·76	1·47
May	2·29	1·38	3·38	4·52
June	4·47	2·38	5·74	4·25
July	7·78	5·45	13·68	11·27
August	5·73	7·49	9·99	5·81
September	5·31	4·98	5·92	7·02
October	7·98	10·91	10·83	11·72
November	7·90	7·22	16·51	9·16
December	3·11	4·26	4·56	3·79
Total	57·40	49·91	80.89	67·75

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

The following is from the Meteorological Register kept at the Government Laboratory, St. John's, Antigua, during 1891 :—

—	Thermometer.				Dew Point.		Thermometer.		Barometer.	
	Dry		Wet							
	9 a.m.	3 p.m.	9 a.m.	3 p.m.	9 a.m.	3 p.m.	Max.	Min.	9 a.m.	3 p.m.
January -	77½	79¼	71	72	66¾	67¾	82½	68½	30·19	30·15
February	76¾	79	69	69½	64½	65	82½	69½	30·23	30·19
March -	78¾	81¾	70½	71½	64¾	65	84	67	30·16	30·14
April -	81	83	73¾	74½	70	69¾	86	72	30·18	30·15
May -	82¾	84	74	75½	68¾	69	87	73	30·16	30·15
June -	83	83½	76	76	71¼	71½	87½	74½	30·19	30·16
July -	82	84	76¾	77	73	73	87	75	30·21	30·18
August -	83	84¾	77	78	73½	74½	87¾	74½	30·19	30·16
September	84	85	77¾	78½	73¾	74	89	73½	30·15	30·11
October -	83½	84½	77½	74	74	73	88½	73	30·10	30·0
November	79	82	76	76	73	72	86½	72	30·12	30·04
December	78	81½	72¾	74	69¾	68¾	84	69¼	30·17	30·12

All figures in this table are the *means* of the daily readings, and the barometer is 40 feet above sea level; the readings are corrected for altitude but not for temperature or gravity.

17. *Savings Banks.*

The sum of 22,982*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* was added to the deposits in the five savings banks of the Colony, and from them was withdrawn 24,210*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* leaving at the end of the year 56,052*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* to the credit of 2,171 depositors. 54,031*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* of this sum was invested in various securities.

At the end of 1890 there was a sum of 56,596*l.* to the credit of 2,073 depositors, 23,911*l.* and 22,969*l.* having been deposited and withdrawn respectively during the year, so that while the balances at the end of the years 1890 and 1891 were about the same, there was 1,000*l.* less deposited and 1,300*l.* more withdrawn in 1891 than in 1890.

The number of depositors increased from 2,073 to 2,171.

In Dominica there were 57 more depositors than in 1890 and there was an additional 465*l.* in the bank.

This is a small sum comparatively, but it is almost a tenth of the whole amount deposited, and the fact that there has been this increase may, I think, be taken as an indication, one of many, that the action of the Government in opening up the country by the erection of bridges and construction of roads is beginning to make itself beneficially felt.

The increase in the amount of withdrawals occurred principally at Antigua, where money was re-invested in Government Loans at higher interest.

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I attach statements of detail.

Bank.	No. of Depositors.		Deposited.		Withdrawn.		To credit	
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
			£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua - - -	1,466	1,490	15,185	14,708	13,905	15,593	40,274	39,409
St. Kitts - - -	266	271	3,487	2,836	3,610	3,387	6,677	6,126
Nevis - - -	77	72	1,278	643	1,169	700	3,228	3,172
Dominica - - -	183	240	2,124	2,356	1,703	2,115	4,408	4,774
Montserrat - -	81	98	1,837	2,440	2,582	2,416	2,009	2,572
Virgin Islands - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - -	2,073	2,171	23,911	22,983	22,969	24,211	56,596	56,053

Number of Depositors in Sums of

—	Under 1*l*.		1*l*. to 10*l*.		10*l*. to 20*l*.	
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
Antigua - -	514	533	546	636	129	132
St. Kitts - -	42	49	99	97	36	34
Nevis - -	2	4	29	26	7	7
Dominica - -	33	49	73	103	21	31
Montserrat - -	19	28	28	29	9	9
Total -	610	663	775	891	202	213

—	20*l*. to 50*l*.		50*l*. to 100*l*.		Over 100*l*.	
	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
Antigua - -	113	121	58	66	106	102
St. Kitts - -	48	54	20	23	21	14
Nevis - -	16	12	8	8	15	15
Dominica -	26	27	18	17	12	13
Montserrat -	11	16	7	7	7	9
Total -	214	230	111	121	161	153

FRED. EVANS,
Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1892.

No. 77.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1891, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 51.)

Sir W. F. HAYNES SMITH to the MARQUESS of RIPON.

Government House, Dominica,
May 1, 1893.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1892, together with a very full report from the Colonial Secretary.

2. From the tables which have been prepared by the Colonial Secretary, it appears that the total amount collected for the purposes of government is twenty shillings and threepence halfpenny per head of the population of the Colony, and this sum includes not only all taxes, but all rates, and all amounts paid for licenses. Of this sum, six shillings and twopence farthing per head are directly returned in medical relief and education.

3. The cost of the administration of justice, and of the maintenance of the prisons, and of the police is three shillings and eightpence per head of the population. The cost of the collection of the revenue is one shilling and three pence halfpenny per head, leaving only nine shillings and one penny three-farthings per head to expend for all other purposes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. F. HAYNES SMITH.

The Most Hon.
the Marquess of Ripon, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Antigua,
April 10, 1893.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency my Report on the Returns forming the Blue Book of the Leeward Islands Colony for the year 1892.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. EVANS,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
Sir W. F. Haynes Smith, K.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

TAXES, DUTIES, FEES.

This portion of the Blue book has been considerably amplified and a thorough revision, rendered necessary by the new fiscal arrangements to meet the terms of the convention for reciprocal trade with the United States of America, has been made. As a preface to the information given, I have inserted in the Blue Book a schedule of the laws, and the authorities under which the various sources of revenue in each Presidency are collected.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1892.

The principal alterations have been under Customs and Excise. The Customs duties have been made practically uniform throughout the Colony; the new laws contain in as concise a form as possible the articles on which import duties shall be paid, the rates payable, the articles which shall be admitted free under the terms of the Convention with the United States, and the articles which by other arrangements shall be exempt from duty; all these are fully set out in the Returns.

In the Virgin Islands the laws relating to the collection of Customs duties were consolidated and the fees for clearance, permits, boarding, &c. altered.

The Excise duty on rum has also been fixed at one uniform rate of 3*s.* for every gallon of the strength of proof by Sykes' hydrometer except that in Antigua it has been made 3*s.* 3*d.* for every such gallon. In Dominica the fee for a still license was raised to 25*l.*

By the passing of the eleven Acts or Ordinances necessary to effect the above changes in the Customs and Excise duties 165 Acts were totally repealed while many others were repealed in part. In Antigua the Land tax has been raised to 5*s.* an acre on land, used for the growing of sugar cane, other kind of land having to pay from 3*d.* to 1*s.* an acre, according to the purpose for which it is used.

In St. Kitts a statistical tax, under which certain duties are payable by owners of cane land on the produce of their land, was imposed. A trade tax was levied in Antigua, every importer having to pay at the rate of 4*s.* for every 40 cubic feet delivered. In Dominica the dues payable on goods landed were increased and made to include those formerly payable under the Piers and Wharves Act. The piers and wharves dues payable in St. Kitts were also increased.

The annexed statement shows the amounts per head of the population of each Presidency, and of the Colony, collected and expended under specified heads.

STATEMENTS showing the AMOUNTS per head of the population of each PRESIDENCY and of the COLONY collected and expended under specified heads:—

—	Population on Dec. 31 1892.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Value of.	
				Imports.	Exports.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Antigua - -	36,818	1 8 6½	1 7 4	5 2 0½	6 15 7
St. Kitts-Nevis -	48,488	0 19 5¾	0 19 2	3 15 1	4 14 6¼
Dominica - -	27,397	0 16 6¾	0 18 9	2 4 9	1 10 0½
Montserrat - -	12,072	0 12 7¼	0 12 1¾	2 4 4½	2 12 4½
Virgin Islands -	4,816	0 5 8	0 8 1½	0 19 8½	0 14 2½
Colony -	129,591	1 0 3½	1 0 3¾	3 11 4½	4 5 7¾

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1892.

—	Population on Dec. 31, 1892.	Customs Duties Collected.	Licenses Collected.	Rates and Taxes Collected.	Expended on.			
					Collection of Revenue.	Administration of Justice, Police Prisons.	Medical Relief.	Education.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Antigua - - - -	36,818	0 15 7	0 1 2	0 4 10½	0 1 7½	0 4 8¾	0 5 5¼	0 2 6¾
St. Kitts-Nevis - - - -	48,488	0 9 10½	0 0 11¾	0 3 3½	0 0 11	0 3 8	0 4 10	0 1 5
Dominica - - - -	27,397	0 6 1½	0 1 0¼	0 3 8½	0 1 9	0 3 8¾	0 3 4¾	0 1 7¼
Montserrat - - - -	12,072	0 5 2	0 0 6½	0 3 5½	0 0 9½	0 1 4½	0 2 3	0 1 8¼
Virgin Islands - - - -	4,816	0 1 11¾	0 0 9	0 1 1¾	0 0 8¾	0 0 9¾	0 2 4¼	0 0 7¾
Colony - - - - -	129,591	0 9 11¾	0 1 0	0 3 9	0 1 3½	0 3 3	0 4 4½	0 1 9¾

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1892.

REVENUE.

The revenue, which was estimated to yield 125,936*l.* before changes were made in the fiscal arrangements of the Colony, gave 131,472*l.*, or 20,186*l.* more than in 1891 (which was a bad year), and 12,113*l.* more than in 1890.

With the present sources of revenue the yield of 1892 may, I think, be taken as a somewhat low average revenue.

Presidency.	Estimated 1892.	Actual Receipts.	
		1892.	1891.
	£	£	£
Antigua - -	47,424	52,551	43,506
St. Kitts-Nevis - -	45,151	47,231	38,209
Dominica - -	24,045	22,716	21,533
Montserrat - -	7,457	7,609	6,526
Virgin Islands - -	1,859	1,365	1,512
Total - -	125,936	131,472	111,286

Except in the Virgin Islands, where the revenue continues to fall off, there was an increase of the receipts in each Presidency, as shown hereunder:—

——	Excess over 1891.	Excess over 1890.
	£	£
Antigua - - - -	9,045	6,217
St. Kitts-Nevis - - -	9,022	4,275
Dominica - - - -	1,183	1,142
Montserrat - - -	1,083	876

The Customs returned 64,669*l.*, as against the 64,300*l.* estimated for and as against 60,371*l.* received in 1891. The duties on alcoholic liquors gave 12,193*l.*, those on other imports 52,476*l.* In Antigua the amount (7,303*l.*) obtained from alcoholic imports was 700*l.* less than the anticipated receipts, but the loss was more than made up by the increase produced by excise, which gave 3,711*l.*, as against an estimate of 1,500*l.* The excise duties, which were estimated to yield 11,400*l.*, gave 12,966*l.*

Port and harbour dues, under the revised scales at St. Kitts, Dominica and Montserrat, returned an increase of 3,259*l.* over the receipts of last year, when the total was 5,174*l.* Under the head of Taxes we obtained 22,918*l.*, as against 14,202*l.* in the previous year; the increase, 8,716*l.*, is the product of the revised land tax in Antigua, and of the newly-created statistical tax in St. Kitts-Nevis combined with a better collection of the House and Land tax in Dominica. There was a falling off in the amount of the rates collected; this was due to the abolition of the Parochial tax in Antigua. The amounts received in each Presidency are detailed in the statement appended:—

Heads of Receipt.		Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total for the Colony.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Import duty on other than alcoholic liquors - -	1891	20,668	17,816	8,858	2,360	408	50,110
	1892	21,394	20,558	7,399	2,671	454	52,476
Import duty on alcoholic liquors	1891	6,680	2,135	596	490	60	10,261
	1892	7,308	3,409	998	456	27	12,198
1. Customs (total) - -	1891	27,348	20,251	9,454	2,850	468	60,371
	1892	28,697	23,967	8,397	3,127	481	64,669
2. Port, Harbour dues -	1891	1,247	2,640	836	8	443	5,174
	1892	1,817	4,355	1,645	308	308	8,433
Excise - - -	1891	1,830	3,508	3,519	858	—	9,715
	1892	3,711	4,086	4,127	1,042	—	12,966
Taxes - - -	1891	3,623	4,358	4,269	1,715	237	14,202
	1892	8,457	7,194	5,011	1,983	273	22,918
Licenses - -	1891	2,076	2,584	1,537	428	202	6,822
	1892	2,206	2,403	1,407	389	185	6,590
Rates - - -	1891	1,449	762	85	92	—	2,388
	1892	505	810	87	108	—	1,510
Miscellaneous - -	1891	918	948	686	60	58	2,665
	1892	870	933	751	68	63	2,685

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1892.

Heads of Receipt.		Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total for the Colony.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
3. Internal Revenue (total) -	1891	9,896	12,160	10,096	3,148	492	35,792
	1892	15,749	15,426	11,383	3,590	521	46,669
4. Fees of Court - -	1891	2,992	1,112	446	223	69	4,842
	1892	4,112	1,528	510	280	31	6,461
5. Post Office - -	1891	1,827	1,557	651	250	23	4,308
	1892	2,095	1,668	685	280	18	4,746
6. Rents - - -	1891	63	364	5	—	5	437
	1892	69	80	24	—	3	176
7. Interest - - -	1891	110	41	1	32	—	184
	1892	—	18	—	—	—	18
9. Miscellaneous - -	1891	23	84	44	15	12	178
	1892	12	189	72	24	3	300
Total 1891 -	- £	43,506	38,209	21,533	6,526	1,512	111,286
Total 1892 -	- £	52,531	47,231	22,716	7,609	1,365	131,472

EXPENDITURE.

Exclusive of the amount expended upon Public Works to be defrayed from Loan funds and of the several works for which loans have been specially and specifically raised, the Colony's expenditure for the year was 131,745*l.*, or 273*l.* more than the receipts.

In Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis the expenditure was well within the revenue, but in Dominica, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands the disbursements were not covered by the receipts. In Montserrat the deficit would have been reduced to a minimum had the Customs duties collected for that island in other parts of the Colony been credited to its Treasury. The Virgin Islands' deficit is mainly due to loss of the revenue formerly derived from the sale of their postage stamps which were largely sought after by philatelists for whom they have a strange fascination, there is however, reason to hope that a more systematic and vigorous collection of the revenue, aided by the amended customs and road ordinances, will produce a more satisfactory condition of things. In Dominica more than one-third of the excess 2,359*l.*, arose under Hospitals and Charitable Institutions, while of the balance, 577*l.* was made up under Treasury and Police, smuggling rendering the collection of customs more costly and necessitating the employment of an increased number of police. Below I show the estimated and actual expenditure of each Presidency and also a comparison between the receipts and disbursements.

Presidency.	Estimated 1892.	Actual Expenditure.	
		1892.	1891.
	£	£	£
Antigua - - -	45,958	50,373	47,309
St. Kitts-Nevis - -	45,025	46,506	45,221
Dominica- - -	23,335	25,075	24,937
Montserrat - -	7,060	7,832	7,303
Virgin Islands - -	1,833	1,959	2,210
Total - -	123,211	131,745	126,989

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1892.

Presidency	Revenue, 1892.	Expenditure, 1892.	Revenue.	
			Over	Under
			Expenditure.	
	£	£	£	£
Antigua - - -	52,551	50,373	2,178	—
St. Kitts-Nevis - -	47,231	46,506	725	—
Dominica - -	22,716	25,075	—	2,359
Montserrat - -	7,609	7,832	—	223
Virgin Islands - -	1,365	1,959	—	594
Total -	131,472	131,745	2,903	3,176

The above show that the expenditure of 1892 was 8,534*l.* more than was estimated and 4,756*l.* more than that of 1891. To account for the excess on the estimates I have only to point out that on hospitals and other charitable institutions the amounts over spent in each Presidency total up to 3,572*l.*, while the amount similarly over spent in education figures at 1,783*l.*, and with regard to the excess over 1891 it will be seen from the statement hereafter given that while 21,502*l.* and 10,442*l.* were the amounts spent in 1892 on charitable institutions and on education respectively the amounts similarly spent in 1891 were 18,956*l.* and 7,056*l.* only. 5,192*l.* is thus accounted for, and the balance, 2,622*l.* is shown to have been caused by the extra disbursements for Post Offices, telephones and sanitation. There were of course excesses on other votes which had to be covered by supplementary estimates on the completion of the year, but the savings on some of the heads of disbursement more than covered such excesses, and the services above mentioned were the actual cause of the disparity between the expenditure of the two years and of the excess over the estimate.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1892.

Heads of Expenditure.		Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total for the Colony.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Charge on account public debt	1891	807	1,139	1,709	218	—	3,873
	1892	1,326	1,833	2,377	457	—	5,993
Pensions - - -	1891	904	2,523	641	117	135	4,320
	1892	994	2,483	664	138	135	4,409
Legislature - - -	1891	75	100	50	—	5	230
	1892	75	100	50	—	5	230
Commissioner - - -	1891	164	792	675	469	387	2,487
	1892	163	799	729	548	406	2,645
Federal contribution - -	1891	3,017	3,971	2,405	916	289	10,598
	1892	4,359	2,635	2,486	996	307	10,783
Treasury and Customs -	1891	2,881	2,130	2,094	353	168	7,626
	1892	3,023	2,318	2,403	486	175	8,405
Audit - - - -	1891	170	50	—	—	—	220
	1892	170	50	—	—	—	220
Port and Marine - -	1891	556	109	41	24	—	730
	1892	549	165	31	46	—	791
Registrar, &c. - - -	1891	850	884	701	31	212	2,678
	1892	832	949	691	24	7	2,508

Heads of Expenditure.		Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total for the Colony.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Magistrates - - -	1891	929	1,597	626	24	13	3,189
	1892	1,054	1,736	693	24	13	3,520
Police - - - -	1891	3,538	3,123	1,737	365	39	8,802
	1892	3,591	2,954	2,066	364	36	9,011
Prisons - - -	1891	2,330	1,589	728	179	143	4,969
	1892	1,873	1,652	902	163	57	4,647
Medical - - -	1891	2,266	2,167	1,385	460	215	6,493
	1892	2,253	2,248	1,617	478	291	6,887
Hospitals - - -	1891	7,447	7,799	2,519	915	276	18,956
	1892	7,786	9,512	3,037	890	277	21,512
Education - - -	1891	2,671	2,074	1,542	650	119	7,056
	1892	4,501	2,897	1,980	934	130	10,442
Ecclesiastical - - -	1891	204	282	—	459	12	957
	1892	167	256	—	459	12	894
Board of Health - -	1891	2,677	759	509	184	—	4,129
	1892	2,905	1,630	611	148	—	5,294
Registration, Vaccination -	1891	294	561	44	45	20	964
	1892	314	542	39	95	14	1,004
Public Market - -	1891	204	53	12	35	—	304
	1892	215	50	14	36	—	315

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1892.

Public Library - -	1891	180	198	—	50	—	428
	1892	180	259	—	50	—	489
Laboratory - - -	1891	403	31	—	—	—	434
	1892	405	378	—	—	—	783
Military - - -	1891	1,259	50	—	—	—	1,309
	1892	1,429	50	—	—	—	1,479
Miscellaneous - - -	1891	1,265	790	1,208	598	84	3,945
	1892	1,069	3,150	692	366	1	5,278
Post Office - - -	1891	1,441	1,287	743	193	50	3,714
	1892	2,405	1,509	759	257	34	4,964
Telegraphs - - -	1891	800	818	—	—	—	1,618
	1892	800	824	400	—	—	2,024
Telephones - - -	1891	533	319	—	—	—	852
	1892	1,345	450	—	—	—	1,795
Public Works Departments -	1891	1,169	853	590	131	—	2,743
	1892	1,209	870	613	141	—	2,833
" " Recurrent -	1891	4,460	3,772	2,050	572	26	10,880
	1892	5,381	4,207	2,220	738	59	12,605
" " Extraordinary-	1891	3,815	5,401	2,927	316	26	12,485
Total - - -	- 1891	47,309	45,221	24,937	7,303	2,219	126,989
Total - - -	- 1892	50,373	46,506	25,075	7,832	1,959	131,745

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1892.

PUBLIC DEBT.

In Antigua the sinking funds for the ultimate extinction of the Immigration (1880) and New Reservoir (1885-1890.) Loans were increased during the year to 1,898*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* and 1,552*l.* 4*s.* 6*d* respectively.

The funded debt was added to by further issues of 2,800*l.*, making a total of 14,000*l.* on account of Wallings' Reservoir Works, and by the transfer of 11,000*l.* to the New Public Works Loan account to cover certain scheduled public works already executed, and until this time charged against current revenue.

The St. Kitts sinking funds for (1) the Basseterre Protection (1886-7), (2) Sandy Point and Dieppe Bay Waterworks (1886), and (3) Nevis Waterworks (1889), were increased to 184*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*, 437*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*, and 185*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* respectively.

The funded debt was increased by further issues on account of Basseterre Improvement Loan to 5,500*l.* and on account of the Public Works Loan to the full extent sanctioned by the Act, viz., 23,500*l.*

In Dominica the sinking funds in respect to the Waterworks and Waterworks Extension loans were raised during the year to 3,265*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* and 681*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*, and that of the roads and bridges loan to 651*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* respectively.

In Montserrat one debenture of 100*l.* was redeemed in December off the 3,000*l.* Waterworks (1880) Loan under the terms of the Act by which the loan was raised.

PUBLIC WORKS.

In addition to the ordinary expenditure of 12,605*l.* upon public works, the special outlay upon the purchase of land, erection of buildings and other undertakings, was 20,623*l.* The ordinary expenditure was slightly in excess of the amount estimated for and shows an increase of 1,724*l.* on the amount spent in 1891. The following table gives the expenditure of each Presidency:—

Presidency.	Ordinary Expenditure.			Exceptional Expenditure 1892.
	Spent 1891.	Estimated 1892.	Spent 1892.	
	£	£	£	£
Antigua - - -	4,460	4,707	5,381	8,677
St. Kitts-Nevis - -	3,772	4,143	4,207	4,344
Dominica - - -	2,050	2,520	2,220	5,109
Montserrat - - -	573	546	738	2,493
Virgin Islands - -	26	40	59	—
Total - -	10,881	11,956	12,605	20,623

The exceptional expenditure in Antigua includes the purchase of land for the Industrial School for Girls at Scott's Hill, the works necessary in connection with that school and with the boys' school at Skerrett's amounting in all to 4,067*l.*; the erection of Pobwork Bridge 982*l.*, a new pump for the water supply 740*l.*, and the erection of a school and the construction of a tramway. In the St. Kitts-Nevis expenditure the 1,165*l.* spent on relief works in Auguilla and the disbursements upon the Nevis Waterworks, church buildings, and pond swamp are included. Dominica includes the cost of the purchase of land for the Botanical Station, and of the purchase of Library buildings as well as disbursements on filter beds for the waterworks, on new roads, &c.

In Montserrat the expenditure was incurred upon the erection of keepers' quarters, for the new hospital and upon the construction of new roads.

LEGISLATION.

The General Legislative Council was convoked by a Proclamation dated the 6th May. It met in Antigua on the 26th May and remained in Session three days, during which time, in addition to other buisness, it passed four Bills, all of which were assented to and promulgated during the year, viz.:—

"An Act to amend the Training Schools Act of 1891," whereby the age up to which persons sent to the training schools was increased from 18 years to 21.

"An Act to amend the Bank Holidays Act of 1880," under which all banks, shops and stores in specified towns are with certain reservations, compulsorily closed on Bank holidays.

"An Act to amend the Magistrates' Code of Procedure Act, 1891," which fixes the amount of punishment which may be inflicted by magistrates on adults convicted pursuant to the principal Act of offences set out in the Schedules thereto; it also makes certain technical alterations.

"An Act to establish a Public Officers' Guarantee Fund," which abolishes the undesirable system under which public officers, in order to give bond with sureties, had to place themselves under obligations to persons with whom they, in their official capacity, had daily business relations.

In the Local Legislative Councils, 65 Acts and Ordinances were passed, 17 by Antigua, 14 by St. Kitts-Nevis, 12 by Dominica, 13 by Montserrat and 9 by the Virgin Islands.

In order to retain for our sugar the markets of the United States of America the Colony was obliged to accept the conditions imposed upon it by the McKinley tariff and to make a complete revision of its fiscal arrangements. Excise, Customs and land were all affected by the passing of new Acts. In putting the new Customs Acts through the several Legislatures, care was taken to secure uniformity of tariff and thus to abolish the anomalous condition of things under which each island had its own distinct tariff. It was surely an absurdity that there should be forming one Colony, several islands within easy communication of one another, some even within sight of each other, each imposing a different scale of Customs on the same kind of import.

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1892.

The new fiscal Acts with the Law Revision Acts passed in each Presidency enabled no less than 1,107 Acts to be removed from the Colony's Statute Book.

In addition to the usual Appropriation Acts there were passed several Loan Acts and provision was made for the creation of Inscribed Stock.

Acts to improve the breed of horses by taxing stallions under a certain standard height, were passed in Antigua, St. Kitts and Montserrat.

In Antigua compulsory pilotage was abolished, arrangements were made for the better preservation of watercourses, streams and ponds, for determining street boundaries and for the improvement of the harbour.

Both in Antigua and Dominica the local Councils expired and new Councils were constituted during the year.

The Antigua Legislature ceased to exist on the 19th July, when its period of five years expired. Fresh elections having taken place, the new Council was convoked by Proclamation and held its first meeting on the 6th October last.

The Dominica Assembly, which was about to expire (on the 10th October), was dissolved by Proclamation on the 6th October. Fresh elections were held and a new Assembly was formed which held its first sitting on the 28th October. It has existence for three years.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

There were but few changes of importance.

The Colonial Secretary (Mr. F. Evans, C.M.G.) was on leave of absence from the 25th February to the 25th May, when Mr. C. E. Mercier, the Auditor-General, acted for him while Mr. Tibbits acted as Auditor-General.

Mr. Mercier and Mr. Tibbitts also acted respectively as Colonial Secretary and Auditor-General from 2nd June to 14th September, when Mr. Evans administered the Government of the Colony during the absence on leave of Sir W. F. Haynes Smith, K.C.M.G.

On the 18th May the Attorney-General, Mr. C. G. Walpole, was granted leave of absence. Mr. C. Halman Beard, the Solicitor-General, was then appointed to act as Attorney-General, and Mr. W. H. Field to replace Mr. Beard.

Mr. C. Musgrave was appointed Registrar at Dominica. Mr. Norman Lockhart relieved Mr. E. J. Cameron, who went on leave of absence on the 30th June as Commissioner (acting) of the Virgin Islands. Mr. W. H. Roper acted as Inspector of Schools from the 30th June to the 14th September, during the absence on leave of Mr. F. H. Watkins.

The Medical Service, to which Dr. Norris and Dr. Earle were appointed, sustained a loss in the death of Dr. Alfred Boon, an official of 18 years standing.

A matron, Miss Ledingham, was appointed to the Training School for Girls at Scott's Hill, Antigua; a curator, Mr. J. Jones,

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1892.

was appointed to the Botanical Station at Dominica to replace Mr. Green, and there were other appointments and transfers of minor importance.

PENSIONS.

The names of six persons, with pensions averaging 18*l.* each, were added to the pensions list. Three deaths reduced the pension list by a sum of 44*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* The total amount annually payable by the Colony is distributed as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Antigua - - - - -	994	4	2
St. Kitts-Nevis - - - -	2,483	7	9
Dominica - - - -	664	0	3
Montserrat - - - -	132	19	1
Virgin Islands - - - -	134	16	2

The Pension list contains the names of two judicial officers receiving between them 1,075*l.*, of six clergymen receiving 1,411*l.*, and of 23 policemen with 208*l.* between them. The remaining 51 pensioners divided 1,815*l.*

The maximum pension payable is 800*l.*, the minimum 3*l.*, and the average 54*l.*

The oldest pensioner is 89 and has a pension of 20*l.*, the youngest is 29 with a pension of 4*l.* 16*s.* There are 17 pensioners between 60 and 70, 20 between 70 and 80, and five between 80 and 90.

The pensioner who has been longest on the list is a policeman in receipt of 33*l.* 6*s.*; he has been on the list since 1872, and is aged 67.

The emoluments on which pensions have been granted amount to 11,375*l.*

POPULATION.

In Antigua there were registered 1,515 deaths, as against 1,251 births, whereby the population was, according to the Registrar's returns, reduced from 36,380 at the end of 1891 to 36,116 at the end of 1892; but in each of the other islands the births were in excess of the deaths, and the population of the Colony shows a net increase of 857 during the year. The Census of 1890 (5th April) returned 127,723, the figures now stand at 129,591.

The islands of St. Kitts and Nevis were both visited by the "Grippe" during the year without showing an increase in the death-rate as compared with 1891, and although this epidemic certainly did affect the rate in Antigua it did not do so in such a degree as to account for the increased death-rate, which is, I think, mainly attributable to the great infant mortality.

Although the percentage of illegitimate births is high in each of the other islands, ranging from 38 in Anguilla to 64 in St. Kitts and Dominica, it reached 68 in Antigua.

I append statements giving details for each island.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1892.

Island.	Population on 5th April, 1890. (Census.)	Population on 31st Dec. 1891.	Births.	Deaths.	Population on 31st December 1892.	Marriages.
			Since registered.			
Antigua - -	36,119	36,380	1,251	1,515	36,116	201
Barbuda - -	580	582	—	—	582	—
Redonda - -	120	120	—	—	120	—
St. Kitts - -	30,876	31,243	1,317	1,194	31,366	161
Nevis - - -	13,087	13,163	581	350	13,394	61
Anguilla - -	3,639	3,699	92	63	3,728	10
Dominica - -	26,841	27,073	826	502	27,397	47
Montserrat - -	11,782	11,755	504	187	12,072	55
Virgin Islands -	4,639	4,719	166	69	4,816	20
Total - -	127,723	128,734	4,737	3,880	129,591	555

Island.	Births.		Deaths.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Antigua - - -	1,413	1,251	1,338	1,515
Barbuda - - -	37	—	30	—
St. Kitts - - -	1,425	1,317	1,237	1,194
Nevis - - -	622	581	450	350
Anguilla - - -	138	92	103	63
Dominica - -	838	826	510	502
Monserrat - -	485	504	403	187
Virgin Islands - -	190	166	92	69
Total - -	5,148	4,737	4,163	3,880

ECCLESIASTICAL.

The returns as amended for the year by the clergy of the various denominations to whom they were sent for correction show an increase in the numbers attending the Anglican, Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic Churches and a decrease in those attending Moravian places of worship. One new chapel (Roman Catholic) was erected in St. Kitts.

Accommodation is provided in the 139 churches for 58,520 persons, 39,480 are returned as generally attending.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1892.

Presidency.	Anglican.			Moravian.			Wesleyan.			Roman Catholic.		
	Churches.	Accommodation.	Attendance.	Churches.	Accommodation.	Attendance.	Churches.	Accommodation.	Attendance.	Churches.	Accommodation.	Attendance.
Antigua - - - -	17	5,680	4,580	13	6,420	4,140	12	5,300	3,570	1	400	300
Barbuda - - -	1	250	200	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Kitts - - - -	12	4,220	3,090	4	2,950	1,400	12	5,460	4,530	2	920	650
Nevis - - - -	6	2,400	2,050	—	—	—	4	2,500	2,100	—	—	—
Anguilla - - -	3	400	180	—	—	—	1	200	150	—	—	—
Dominica - - -	1	500	300	—	—	—	8	1,750	1,100	15	10,800	6.400
Montserrat - - -	9	3,030	2,560	—	—	—	5	1,250	980	1	300	75
Virgin Islands - - -	4	490	240	—	—	—	8	3,300	885	—	—	—
Total - - -	53	16,970	13 200	17	9,370	5,540	50	19,760	13,315	19	12,420	7,425

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1892.

EDUCATION.

In education the past year has again been remarkable for very large increase both in the number on the rolls and in the average attendance, the former rising from 17,686 to 21,507 and the latter from 8,211 to 10,188. These figures prove conclusively that the Compulsory Act of 1890 has already begun to work successfully, for in 1889 the number on the roll was 12,573 and the average attendance 6,906. The most signal advance has been made in Montserrat and Dominica. In the former island both the average attendance and the numbers on the registers have increased about 85 per cent., while, in the latter island, the addition to the registers has been, since 1890, 133 per cent., and the average attendance has risen from 1,026 to 1.794.

Marked improvement has been effected in the instruction and discipline of the primary schools, which are now better furnished and equipped than formerly. Increased grants have been made to secondary education, and the Colony has now established in each of the islands good grammar schools for boys, and in Antigua, and St. Kitts high schools for girls receive subsidies.

The number of Government students at the Female Training College in Antigua has been doubled with the view of encouraging the opening of school life to females as a livelihood.

Private schools are now under Government supervision and will be licensed in 1893. This will be the means of sweeping away many of the abuses existing under the cover of private schools in charge of exceedingly incompetent persons.

There is no doubt that the average attendance would have been even more augmented had not consideration been taken of the want of accommodation. Votes for providing primary schools were passed in Antigua, Montserrat, and Dominica.

The question of the establishment of a central technical college has been under consideration, and the sum of 2,500*l.* was voted for that purpose by the Antigua Legislature.

There are indications that the improvements in the primary schools will continue, and that the parents themselves are awakening to a better sense of their duties to their children.

The following table relates to the primary schools:—

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1892.

Presidency.		Number of Schools.	Number on the Rolls.	Average Attendance.	School Fees.	Government Grants.	Private Contributions.	Total Receipts.
					£	£	£	£
Antigua - - -	1891	40	5,036	2,291	234	1,588	443	2,265
	1892	41	5,968	2,804	234	1,615	198	2,047
St. Kitts - - -	1891	30	4,812	2,197	105	1,223	135	1,463
	1892	31	5,438	2,498	111	1,392	156	1,659
Nevis - - -	1891	16	2,152	990	67	500	73	640
	1892	19	2,561	1,319	102	577	104	783
Dominica - - -	1891	22	2,784	1,247	107	1,416	21	1,544
	1892	22	4,214	1,794	123	1,801	25	1,949
Montserrat - -	1891	12	2,411	1,278	69	411	103	583
	1892	13	2,764	1,519	87	506	91	684
Virgin Islands - -	1891	5	491	208	21	123	31	175
	1892	5	562	254	20	130	109	259
Total - - -	1891	125	17,686	8,211	603	5,261	806	6,670
	1892	131	21,507	10,188	677	6,021	663	7,381

The Number of Secondary Schools with the Number of Scholars on the Rolls &c., is given below :—

—		On the Rolls.		Average Attendance.		School Fees.	Government Grant.	Voluntary Subscription.	Total.
		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.				
ANTIGUA.							£	£	£
Mico Training College	1891	20	—	20	—	—	200	—	200
	1892	20	—	20	—	—	200	—	200
Spring Gardens College	1891	—	10	—	10	—	100	—	100
	1892	—	12	—	12	—	200	—	200
Grammar School	1891	57	—	57	—	400	200	—	600
	1892	43	—	43	—	400	200	—	600
Coke College	1891	37	45	37	45	—	—	—	—
	1892	37	55	37	55	1,020	200	—	1,220
* Girls' High School	1891	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1892	—	33	—	33	—	100	—	100
† Roman Catholic School	1891	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1892	13	—	13	—	—	50	—	50

* No information for 1891.

† Temporarily closed in 1891.

—		On the Rolls.		Average Attendance.		School Fees.	Government Grant.	Voluntary Subscription.	Total.
		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.				
St. Kitts.							£	£	£
Grammar School - -	1891	6	—	6	—	—	300	—	300
	1892	12	—	12	—	—	300	—	300
Girls' High School - -	1891	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1892	—	35	—	33	128	75	—	203
Nevis.									
High School - - -	1891	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1892	15	—	14	—	36	60	40	136
Montserrat.									
High School - - -	1891	30	—	26	—	—	75	—	75
	1892	26	—	26	—	104	60	—	164
Total - -	1891	150	55	146	55	400	875	—	1,275
	1892	166	135	165	133	1,688	1,445	40	3,173

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1892.

The training school for boys at Skerretts has made good progress; 62 additional boys were received, bringing the total up to 173, and although a large percentage of these could neither read nor write on reception, the advance made in their school work enabled the Inspector of Schools who examined the schools during the year to report "That the manual work has in no way "interfered with the school making the progress to be expected "in any primary school."

In the field work the boys take a considerable part, and they are also employed in looking after the animals on the stock farm. There is a tailor's shop on the school where all the clothing for the institution is made by the boys. The cooking and cleaning is also done by them. A drum and fife band has been established and is of good service in rendering the marching of the boys more perfect.

Five boys died in the hospital attached to the school, two of phthisis, one of dysentery, one of dropsy, and one of heart disease. Inquests were held in every case.

About 40 acres of land have been brought into cultivation during the year, making a total of about 100 acres under cultivation. Corn and provision crops have been reaped from these lands. The first series of experiments on the sugar cane with artificial manure was conducted in the year and a report of the results was published. A second series of similar experiments were also laid out to be reaped in 1893. Several additions have been made to the stock farm which, if not in itself directly remunerative, will almost immediately prove of immense advantage to the Colony in improving the breed of horses, cattle, &c.

A training school for girls was opened at Scott's Hill on the 22nd July last when a lady matron or superintendent, with special knowledge of the requirements of such an institution, was appointed.

It opened with 11 girls and increased its numbers to 29 before the end of the year. Two girls were discharged by order of the Governor, one who showed signs of leprosy was returned to her relations, and one was sent into hospital, where she remained suffering from phthisis. There were no deaths.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1892.

SKERRETTS (Boys).

Whence received.	Remaining end of 1891.	Received in 1892.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining end of 1892.	Ages of those Received.			Educational Condition of those Received.			
						8 to 10.	10 to 13.	13 to 16.	Neither Read nor Write.	Read and Write imperfectly.	Read and Write fairly well.	Could say Alphabet.
Antigua - - -	42	24	—	2	64	6	11	7	19	1	4	—
Barbuda - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Kitts - - -	36	8	—	1	43	2	2	4	7	1	—	—
Nevis - - -	22	4	—	1	25	—	1	3	3	—	—	1
Anguilla - - -	—	2	—	—	2	—	2	—	2	—	—	—
Dominica - - -	5	21	—	1	25	2	11	8	19	1	1	—
Montserrat - - -	6	3	—	—	9	1	1	1	3	—	—	—
Virgin Islands - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - -	111	62	—	5	168	11	28	23	53	3	5	1

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1892.

SCOTTS HILL (Girls).

Whence received.	Remaining end of 1891.	Received in 1892.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining end of 1892.	Ages of those Received.			Educational condition of those Received.			
						8 to 10.	10 to 13.	13 to 16.	Neither Read nor Write.	Read and Write imperfectly.	Read and Write fairly well.	Could say Alphabet.
Antigua - - -	—	14	1	—	13	13	9	3	17	4	4	—
Barbuda - - -	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Kitts - - -	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevis - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anguilla - - -	—	6	2	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dominica - - -	—	6	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Montserrat - - -	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virgin Islands - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - - -	—	29	4	—	25	13	9	3	17	4	4	—

Leeward Islands.
1892.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The Imports and Exports were valued at 1,017,613*l.*, the trade being distributed as follows :—

Countries.	Imports from	Exports to	Total Trade.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	221,958	65,189	287,147
British North America - - -	27,461	49,952	77,413
Barbados - - - -	23,747	1,996	25,743
Other British Colonies - - -	2,999	492	3,491
United States of America - -	155,390	378,711	534,101
Other Foreign Countries - -	15,279	40,857	56,136
	446,834	537,197	984,031
Islands of the Colony - - -	15,776	17,806	33,582
Total - - - -	462,610	555,003	1,017,613

The value of the trade of the several Presidencies or Islands forming the Colony is given in the two following tables :—

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1892.

IMPORTS.

Countries.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	93,346	87,790	30,012	10,228	582	221,958
British North America - - -	10,868	13,443	302	2,848	—	27,461
Barbados - - - -	7,364	2,259	10,044	3,933	147	23,747
Other British Colonies - -	882	1,379	568	170	—	2,999
United States of America - -	65,671	70,319	14,080	5,168	152	155,390
Other Foreign Countries - -	2,017	5,632	3,759	343	3,528	15,279
	180,148	180,822	58,765	22,690	4,409	446,834
Islands of the Colony - - -	8,210	710	2,538	4,084	234	15,776
Total - - - -	188,358	181,532	61,303	26,774	4,643	462,610

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1892.

EXPORTS.

Countries.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	2,765	30,292	20,886	11,246	—	65,189
British North America - -	40,056	7,904	82	1,910	—	49,952
Barbados - - - -	408	172	1,280	136	—	1,996
Other British Colonies - - -	67	296	110	19	—	492
United States of America - -	182,031	162,676	19,354	14,650	—	378,711
Other Foreign Countries - -	13,520	21,432	1,926	868	3,111	40,857
	238,847	22,772	43,538	28,829	3,111	237,197
Islands of the Colony - - -	5,894	6,410	2,527	2,785	190	317,806
Total - - - -	244,741	229,182	46,165	31,614	3,301	555,003

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1892.

Classified according to the recommendations of the Committee appointed in 1891 to enquire into the compilation of Import and Export Statistics in the Colonies, the trade was made up as follows:—

Articles.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
Live animals - - - - -	8,524	3,013	11,537
Food - - - - - -	163,896	516,479	680,375
Drink - - - - - -	16,623	8,898	25,521
Narcotics - - - - -	119	—	119
Raw materials - - - -	18,160	3,751	55,911
Manufactured textile articles - -	99,641	547	100,188
" metal articles - -	31,343	262	31,605
Other manufactures - - -	103,328	2,938	106,266
	441,634	535,888	977,522
Islands of the Colony - - -	15,776	17,806	33,582
Coin and bullion - - -	5,200	1,309	6,509
Total - - - -	462,610	555,003	1,017,613

The value of our trade as above classified with the various countries specified is given in the two following tables:—

IMPORTS.

Articles.	United Kingdom.	British North America.	Barbados.	Other British Colonies.	United States of America.	Other Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Live animals - - - -	213	68	1,570	74	5,646	1,143	8,524
Food - - - - -	17,755	21,946	9,479	779	109,425	4,512	163,896
Drink - - - -	111,370	16	1,227	481	234	3,295	16,623
Narcotics - - - -	106	—	—	—	13	—	119
Raw materials - - -	2,863	3,166	1,099	—	10,454	578	18,160
Manufactured textile articles -	94,527	318	2,486	128	1,664	518	99,641
„ metal articles -	28,427	103	561	48	1,692	512	31,343
Other manufactures - - -	61,887	1,844	7,125	1,489	26.262	4,662	103,328
	216,958	27,461	23,547	2,999	155,390	15,279	441,634
Islands of the Colony - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	15,776
Coin and bullion - - -	5,000	—	200	—	—	—	5,200
Total - - -	221,958	27,461	23,747	2,999	155,390	15,279	462,610

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1892.

EXPORTS.

Articles.	United Kingdom.	British North America.	Barbados.	Other British Colonies.	United States of America.	Other Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Live Animals - - -	234	—	135	43	35	2,566	3,013
Food - - - -	56,822	49,587	873	336	374,588	34,273	516,479
Drink - - - -	7,189	48	—	—	8	1,653	8,898
Narcotics - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Raw materials - - -	27	—	690	36	2,317	681	3,751
Manufactured textile articles -	78	—	4	—	—	465	547
" metal articles -	107	96	16	—	1	42	262
Other manufactures - -	675	221	213	77	575	1,177	2,938
	65,132	49,952	1,931	492	377,524	40,857	535,888
Islands of the Colony - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	17,806
Coin and bullion - - -	57	—	65	—	1,187	—	1,309
Total - - - -	65,189	49,952	1,996	492	378,711	40,857	555,003

The contributions of the Presidencies are shown below:—

IMPORTS.

Articles.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Live animals - - - -	4,209	4,096	130	89	—	8,524
Food - - - - -	68,074	66,952	19,239	7,480	2,151	163,896
Drink - - - - -	5,979	7,364	2,433	711	76	16,623
Narcotics - - - -	116	2	1	—	—	119
Raw materials - - - -	8,180	7,145	1,973	682	180	18,160
Manufactured textile articles - -	34,101	43,501	14,714	6,621	704	9,964
„ metal articles - -	13,637	10,602	4,991	1,690	423	31,343
Other manufactures - - -	41,852	41,160	14,284	5,157	875	103,328
	176,148	180,822	57,765	22,490	4,409	441,634
Islands of the Colony - - -	8,210	710	2,538	4,084	234	15,776
Coin and bullion - - -	4,000	—	1,000	200	—	5,200
Total - - - -	188,358	181,532	61,303	26,774	4,643	462,610

EXPORTS.

Articles.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Live animals - - - -	389	176	41	96	2,311	3,013
Food - - - - -	237,086	212,548	38,367	27,943	535	516,479
Drink - - - - -	56	8,657	15	170	—	8,898
Narcotics - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Raw materials - - - -	95	298	3,090	15	253	3,751
Manufactured textile articles - -	290	24	233	—	—	547
" metal articles - -	150	77	22	5	8	262
Other manufactures - - -	731	992	676	535	4	2,938
	238,797	222,772	42,444	28,764	3,111	535,888
Islands of the colony - - -	5,894	6,410	2,527	2,785	190	17,806
Coin and bullion - - -	50	—	1,194	65	—	1,309
Total - - -	244,741	229,182	46,165	31,614	3,301	555,003

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1892.

A comparison between the trade of the Colony in the years 1891 and 1892 is given in the next table, which also shows the value of our commercial connexion with the countries named.

Countries.	Imports from				Exports to			
	1891.	1892.	Increase.	Decrease.	1891.	1892.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	180,060	221,958	41,898	—	52,431	65,189	12,758	—
British North America - -	20,388	27,461	7,073	—	22,051	49,952	27,901	—
Barbados - - - - -	24 039	23,747	—	292	1,614	1,996	382	—
Other British Colonies - - -	3,178	2,999	—	179	1,131	492	—	639
United States of America - -	159,695	155,390	—	4,305	296,754	378,711	81,957	—
Other Foreign countries - -	16,995	15,279	—	1,716	23,290	40,857	17,567	—
	£404,355	446,834	48,971	6,492	397,271	537,197	140,565	639
Islands of the Colony - -	14,931	15,776	845	—	15,529	17,806	2,277	—
Total - -	£419,286	462,610	49,816	6,492	412,800	555,003	142,842	639

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1892.

Excluding coin and bullion which do not figure in the 1891 returns, the value of the trade of 1892 was greater than that of 1891 by a sum of 179,018*l.* There was an increase of 38,124*l.* in the imports, and of 140,894*l.* in the exports.

The imports show an increase in cottons and woollens 12,291*l.*, haberdashery 4,659*l.*, and other articles of wearing apparel, and a falling off in flour (7,010*l.*), meal (5,402*l.*), corn (1,815*l.*), rice (1,752*l.*), and other breadstuffs. There was an increase in manures (5,073*l.*), sugar machinery (2,618*l.*), and in hardware (3,367*l.*), also in pickled fish (2,865*l.*), and pickled pork (2,781*l.*).

The increase in the exports was derived from our staples, sugar and molasses, the former showing an increase of 10,217 tons and the latter of 6,888 puncheons.

The sugar was valued at 427,594*l.*, and the molasses at 49,147*l.* There was also an increase in the exports of rum which were valued at 8,129*l.* Of the total exports the produce of the colony amounted to 522,761*l.* as against 385,374*l.* in the previous year. Foreign produce re-exported was valued at 13,127*l.*

Except in Dominica, where there was a very small falling off, amounting to 477*l.*, there was an increase in the imports of each Presidency, and with the single exception of the Virgin Islands, where there was a decrease of 906*l.* in the value of the cattle and small stock sent to the Danish Islands, there was also in each Presidency an increase of exports.

Antigua increased its imports from 167,110*l.* to 184,358*l.*, and its exports from 157,463*l.* to 244,691*l.*, St. Kitts-Nevis its imports from 161,105*l.* to 181,532*l.*, and its exports from 187,455*l.* to 229,182*l.*, and Montserrat its imports from 25,845*l.* to 26,574*l.*, and its exports from 24,339*l.* to 31,549*l.* In Dominica the exports were raised from 38,910*l.* to 44,971*l.* The imports of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis were appreciably affected by the increased demand for wearing apparel amounting to 7,169*l.* in Antigua and 14,549*l.*, in St. Kitts-Nevis. The increase on cottons and woollens alone in these Presidencies amounted to 4,543*l.* in the former and 10,197*l.* in the latter. Machinery for the manufacture of sugar was introduced into each island as follows:—Antigua 5,071*l.*, St. Kitts-Nevis 2,488*l.*, Dominica 1,288*l.*, and Montserrat 217*l.*, and there was in each island an increase in the value of cane manures imported. The falling off in the imports of such foodstuffs as flour, meal, corn, and rice was felt in all the islands.

In the exports there was a falling off in the output of the minor industries, but in sugar, the chief staple, there was an increase in each Presidency. The exports of molasses increased in Antigua and fell off slightly in St. Kitts-Nevis. In Dominica there was an increase in the lime products, but a marked falling off in cocoa, due to failure in the crop.

LEEWARD ISLANDS 1892.

A special enquiry has been made as to the cause of the failure and a report on the subject is about to be published. St. Kitts largely increased its export of rum.

The bulk of our trade was with the United States of America, whence we received imports to the value of 155,390*l.* in exchange for our exports valued at 378,711*l.* Foodstuffs, among which may be mentioned flour (49,367*l.*), meal (10,707*l.*), corn (9,231*l.*), and pork (16,583*l.*), formed our chief articles of import, but we also received pitch pine, &c. (10,372*l.*), mules (5,566*l.*), petroleum (3,546*l.*), and other articles, including cottons, woollens, hardware, tobacco, drugs and chemicals, &c. The exports were composed mainly of sugar (32,387 tons) and of molasses (1,061 puncheons).

From the United Kingdom (excluding 5,000*l.* in specie) we took imports to the value of 216,958*l.*, being an increase of 36,898*l.* on 1891, and in exchange we sent our products to the value of 65,189*l.* In all the articles which form our chief imports from the United Kingdom there was an increase except in grain, malt liquors, chemicals, and furniture, on which there was between them a falling off amounting to 3,098*l.* Cottons and woollens show an increase of 11,370*l.*, haberdashery and millinery of 5,120*l.*, sugar machinery and cane manures of 2,483*l.* and 2,975*l.* respectively, boots and shoes of 2,496*l.*, and hardware of 2,612*l.*

Our exports, which were 12,758*l.* greater than in 1891 consisted of 3,082 tons of sugar, 691 puncheons of molasses, 132,884 gallons of rum, and 397,911 lbs. of cocoa, besides lime juice to the value of 12,638*l.*

British North America increased its exports to and its imports from us. We received from this country in 1891 imports to the value of 20,388*l.*, and our exports were valued at 22,051*l* ; in 1892 the imports were 27,461*l.* and the exports 49,952*l.* We received pickled fish (17,676*l.*,) white pine and spruce (3,166*l.*), and flour (2,154*l.*), and we sent sugar (2,329 tons,) molasses (6,544 puncheons), and salt (13,088 barrels). In 1891 our export of sugar was only 3 tons and of molasses 5,796 puncheons.

To Barbados we only exported goods to the value of 1,996*l.*, but we received breadstuffs (1,280*l.*), pickled fish (5,770*l.*,) manures (2,652*l.*), cottons (2,157*l.*), and other articles to the total value of 23,547*l.* Our imports from and exports to British Colonies other than those above referred to were valued at 2,999*l.* and 492*l.* respectively, and our imports from and exports to foreign countries other than the United States of America were valued at 15,279*l.* and 40,857*l.* respectively.

The trade between the islands of the colony has, with the aid of the subsidised federal steamer "Tyne," increased from 27,978*l.* in 1890 and 30,460*l.* in 1891 to 33,582*l.* in 1892.

The eight following tables show the principal articles of trade with the United Kingdom, British North America, Barbados, and the United States of America :—

Imports from the United Kingdom.

Articles.	1891.	1892.	1892 as against 1891.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Grain - - -	9,409	7,753	—	1,656
Salted and dried provisions	3,023	3,234	211	—
Confectioneries - -	4,889	6,555	1,666	—
Malt liquors - -	3,288	2,552	—	736
Spirits - - -	3,906	5,869	1,963	—
Wine - - -	1,695	2,194	499	—
Coal - - -	1,132	2,863	1,731	—
Cottons, woollens, linens -	53,376	64,746	11,370	—
Haberdashery and millinery	24,093	29,213	5,120	—
Hardware - - -	12,984	15,596	2,612	—
Sugar machinery - -	6,289	8,772	2,483	—
Boots and shoes - -	6,697	9,193	2,496	—
Drugs, chemicals, &c. -	2,307	1,839	—	468
Earthen and glass ware -	2,134	2,531	397	—
Fancy goods, toys, &c. -	2,042	2,326	284	—
Furniture - - -	1,165	927	—	238
Leather and saddlery -	2,531	3,615	1,084	—
Manures - - -	10,889	13,864	2,975	—
Packages - - -	2,039	2,764	725	—
Rope, cordage, Naval stores	1,457	1,720	263	—
Soap and tallow - -	3,825	4,235	410	—
Other articles - -	20,890	24,597	3,707	—
	180,060	216,958	39,996	3,098
Coin and bullion - -	—	5,000	5,000	—
Total - -	180,060	221,958	44,996	3,098

Imports from British North America.

Articles.	1891.	1892.	1892 as against 1891.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Fish, dried and pickled -	12,808	17,676	4,868	—
White pine and spruce -	2,202	3,166	964	—
Manures - - -	1,005	—	—	1,005
Flour - - - -	1,155	2,154	999	—
Shingles - - -	464	478	14	—
Other articles - -	2,754	3,987	1,233	—
Total - - -	20,388	27,461	8,078	1,005

Imports from Barbados.

Articles.	1891.	1892.	1892 as against 1891.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Breadstuffs - - -	3,062	1,280	—	1,782
Grain - - - -	1,779	1,084	—	695
Fish, dried and pickled -	7,061	5,770	—	1,291
Malt, spirits and wine - -	777	751	—	26
White pine and spruce -	789	441	—	348
Cottons, woollens and linens -	1,770	2,157	387	—
Oilmeal, oilcake - -	752	161	—	591
Hoops, shooks, staves -	921	1,192	271	—
Manures - - -	410	2,652	2,242	—
Other articles - - -	6,718	8,059	1,341	—
	24,039	23,547	4,241	4,733
Coin and bullion - -	—	200	200	—
Total - -	24,039	23,747	4,441	4,733

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1892.

Imports from the United States of America.

Articles.	1891.	1892.	1892 as against 1891.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Mules	1,327	5,566	4,239	—
Bread and buscuits	5,373	3,537	—	1,836
Flour	56,811	49,367	—	7,444
Meal	15,316	10,707	—	4,609
Corn	10,544	9,231	—	1,313
Oats, peas and beans	1,037	1,312	275	—
Beef (salted)	2,262	2,522	260	—
Butter	3,350	2,987	—	363
Cheese	1,280	1,533	253	—
Fish, dried and pickled	3,621	3,228	—	393
Hams, &c.	779	1,006	227	—
Lard	1,788	2,449	661	—
Pork	12,309	16,583	4,274	—
Coffee and cocoa	1,005	510	—	495
Sugar refined	923	745	—	178
Pitch pine	3,764	3,822	58	—
White pine and spruce	5,106	6,550	1,444	—
Cottons, woollens, linens	1,068	1,584	516	—
Hardware	911	1,387	476	—
Drugs and chemicals	1,003	899	—	104
Oilmeal and oilcake	6,414	6,691	277	—
Petroleum oil	2,945	3,546	601	—
Tobacco	2,595	2,505	—	90
Shooks	2,855	3,316	461	—
Shingles	1,404	866	—	538
Carriages and carts	819	651	—	168
Other articles	13,086	12,290	—	796
Total	159,695	155,390	14,022	18,327

Leeward Islands.
1892.

Exports to the United Kingdom.

Articles.		1891.	1892.	1892 as against 1891	
				Increase.	Decrease.
* Coffee and cocoa -	£	13,310	—	—	—
	lbs.	749,4[illegible]	—	—	—
Coffee - - -	£	—	88	—	—
	lbs.	—	2,940	—	—
Cocoa - - -	£	—	7,875	—	—
	lbs.	—	397,911	—	—
Fruits and Vegetables	£	1,332	878	—	454
Fruits preserved - -	£	836	89	—	747
Fruit Juices -	£	14,428	12,63	—	1,790
Sugar - - -	£	12,029	32,800	20,771	—
	lbs.	1,104	3,082	1,978	—
Molasses - -	£	5,590	1,812	—	3,778
	Puns.	1,538	691	—	847
Rum - -	£	3,795	7,189	3,394	—
	Galls.	54,213	132,884	78,671	—
Other articles -	-	1,111	1,820	709	—
Total - -	£	52,431	65189	—	—

Exports to British North America.

Articles.		1891.	1892.	1892 as against 1891.	
				Increase.	Decrease.
Sugar - -	£	31	26,717	26,686	—
	Tons	3	2,329	2,326	—
Molasses - -	£	20,832	21,936	1,104	—
	Puns.	5,796	6,544	748	—
Salt - -	£	658	651	—	7
	Brls.	10,340	13,088	2,748	—
Other articles - -	£	530	648	118	—
Total - -	£	22,051	49,952	27,908	7

* Not given separately in the 1891 Returns.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1892.

Exports to Barbados.

Articles.	1891.	1892.	1892 as against 1891.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Cattle - - -	310	41	—	269
Provisions - - -	803	873	70	—
Firewood - - -	155	690	535	—
Other articles - - -	346	392	46	—
Total - - -	1,614	1,996	651	269

Exports to the United States of America.

Articles.		1891.	1892.	1892 as against 1891.	
				Increase.	Decrease.
Fruits and Vegetables	- £	1,001	825	—	176
Fruit juices - -	- £	4,087	55	—	4,032
Sugar - -	£	284,594	367,082	82,488	—
	Tons	26,428	32,387	5,959	—
Molasses - -	£	3,120	3,061	—	59
	Puns.	782	1,061	279	—
Salt - - -	£	352	135	—	21
	Brls.	5,339	2,693	—	2,646
Other articles -	- £	3,600	7,553	3,953	—
Total - -	- £	296,754	378,711	8,6441	4,484

The principal articles of import and of export from each Presidency of the Colony are shown in the tables appended :—

IMPORTS.

Articles.	Antigua.		St. Kitts.		Dominica.		Montserrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Alcoholic liquors	5,224	5,189	6,366	7,127	1,970	2,239	638	741	150	73	14,348	15,369
Boots and shoes	2,769	3,286	2,665	3,737	1,429	1,765	369	557	145	194	7,377	9,539
Cottons, woollens, &c.	17,223	21,766	21,721	31,918	12,323	9,536	5,136	5,440	554	588	56,957	69,248
Corn	7,400	6,299	3,828	3,188	38	37	97	42	31	13	11,394	9,579
Rice	4,135	3,364	4,344	3,965	1,186	739	215	112	88	36	9,968	8,216
Haberdashery and millinery	9,828	11,937	8,195	11,475	5,592	5,101	1,450	1,181	86	116	25,151	29,810
Hardware	5,955	7,915	5,380	5,993	2,013	4,154	962	1,347	69	137	14,379	17,746
Sugar machinery	2,718	5,071	2,834	2,488	762	1,288	163	217	—	31	6,477	9,095
Manures	5,518	8,327	5,990	7,784	1,478	1,691	154	411	—	—	13,140	18,213
Oilmeal, linseed meal	2,769	2,577	4,117	4,396	124	107	219	192	—	—	7,229	7,272
Bread and biscuits	3,132	2,087	2,401	1,398	132	114	118	91	18	33	5,801	3,723
Flour	19,956	18,875	29,412	24,636	7,165	7,582	4,226	2,419	1,315	1,552	62,074	55,064
Meal	8,850	6,295	7,030	4,443	114	80	353	86	122	163	16,469	11,067
Butter	2,749	2,232	2,561	2,159	1,169	1,171	265	209	87	69	6,831	5,840
Fish, dried and pickled	10,616	10,843	8,839	10,314	3,932	4,210	1,256	2,138	14	17	24,657	27,522
Pork, salted and dried	5,886	7,861	5,767	6,943	1,648	1,314	1,344	1,300	62	70	14,707	17,488
Other articles	45,014	52,224	38,322	48,858	17,097	16,637	5,873	6,007	1,090	1,317	107,396	126,843
	159,742	176,148	159,772	180,822	58,172	57,765	22,838	22,490	3,831	4,409	404,355	441,634
Islands of Colony	7,368	8,210	1,333	710	2,608	2,538	3,007	4,084	615	234	14,931	15,776
Coin and bullion	—	4,000	—	—	—	1,000	—	200	—	—	—	5,200
	167,110	188,358	161,105	181,532	60,780	61,303	25,845	26,774	4,446	4,643	419,286	462,610

EXPORTS.

Articles.		Antigua.		St. Kitts.		Dominica.		Montserrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total.	
		1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Produce of the Colony.													
* Coffee and cocoa	£	—	—	45	—	13,811	—	9	—	—	—	13,865	—
	lbs.	—	—	1,500	—	777,704	—	195	—	—	—	779,399	—
Coffee	£	—	—	—	30	—	271	—	—	—	—	—	301
Cocoa	£	—	—	—	—	—	8,428	—	9	—	—	—	8,437
Fruits and vegetables	£	1,178	840	324	197	606	556	326	361	408	349	2,842	2,303
Fruits, preserved	£	536	31	345	—	530	414	275	77	—	—	1,686	522
Fruit, juices	£	37	19	52	52	9,023	11,200	9,418	4,859	—	—	18,530	16,130
Sugar	Tons	12,091	15,302	12,890	17,869	1,636	2,215	1,035	2,500	25	8	27,677	37,894
	£	129,909	199,719	148,355	190,586	9,816	16,612	10,017	20,559	294	118	298,391	427,594
Molasses	Puns.	5,058	10,343	3,686	4,812	188	162	198	695	—	—	9,124	16,012
	£	17,160	34,909	14,742	12,030	470	471	638	1,737	—	—	33,010	49,147
Rum	Gals.	—	—	74,401	149,695	498	171	—	1,879	—	—	74,899	151,745
	£	—	—	5,208	7,946	36	13	—	170	—	—	5,244	8,129
Cattle and small stock	£	18	—	32	18	99	30	568	85	3,170	2,264	3,887	2,397
Essential oils and essences	£	—	—	—	—	1,049	83	567	399	—	—	1,616	482
Salt	Barls.	—	—	30,436	24,495	—	—	—	—	96	76	30,532	24,571
	£	—	—	1,876	1,230	—	—	—	—	5	4	1,881	1,234
Turtle, tortoise and tortoise shell	£	412	165	104	112	17	3	2	5	2	—	537	285
Other articles	£	466	682	929	829	1,482	3,438	638	483	370	368	3,885	5,800
		149,716	236,365	172,012	213,030	36,939	41,519	22,458	28,744	4,249	3,103	385,374	522,761
Foreign produce re-exported	£	2,050	2,432	9,055	9,742	440	925	46	20	306	8	11,897	13,127
Islands of the Colony	£	5,697	5,894	6,388	6,410	1,531	2,527	1,835	2,785	78	190	15,529	17,806
Coin and bullion	£	—	50	—	—	—	1,194	—	65	—	—	—	1,309
		157,463	244,741	187,455	229,182	38,910	46,165	24,339	31,614	4,633	3,301	412,800	555,003

* Not shown separately in 1891 Returns.

13.—GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

The Gaol Returns, which I have been unable to reconcile with the "Criminal Statistics," show that 1,685 persons were committed to prison in 1892, 1,530 for purposes of penal imprisonment, 154 for safe custody, or for want of security, and 1 for debt. Of those committed 978 were men, 702 women, and 5 juveniles; 335 had been previously convicted once, 159 twice, and 365 thrice or more. One thousand four hundred and fourteen were convicted for three months or less, 78 for more than three months or less than one year, 35 for one year or more, but under five years, and three for five years or more. Among the three who were committed for five years is included a woman who was convicted of murder and executed.

The admissions to hospital, which are returned at 182, were 126 under those of the previous year. The punishments, 1,178, were also less numerous than in 1891, when they were returned at 1,444.

In the Antigua Gaol the punishments, 881, were comparatively more numerous than in the other gaols; but Antigua, with a daily average of 124 prisoners, contains all prisoners sentenced to three months or more whom the other goals only keep while arrangements for their transfer to Antigua or for their release are being made. Corporal punishment was inflicted upon five prisoners in the Antigua Gaol, one having been flogged with a cat-o'-nine-tails and four birched with a tamarind rod. There were four deaths in the gaol, three in Antigua and one in St. Kitts. Coroner's inquests were held on the occasion of each death. An execution, included in the number of deaths, took place in the Antigua Gaol. No prisoners escaped.

New rules and regulations for the governance of the prisons of the Colony were made and approved during the year. The discipline in the gaols steadily improves, but—for Antigua especially—the solitary system is much needed to replace the association wards. A much more economical administration of the Antigua Gaol has resulted from the introduction of the industries mentioned in my Report upon the Returns of 1891.

14.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the police or magistrate was 16,988. In the previous year it was 16,596. The offences are made up as follows:—

—	1891.	1892.
Offences against the person -	3,793	4,224
Prædial larceny - - -	1,377	796
Against property other than prædial larceny - - -	2,512	1,915
Other offences - - -	8,914	10,053

There were summoned or apprehended and brought before the magistrates 16,575 persons, 5,420 of whom were discharged for want of evidence, 3,343 dismissed on the merits of their cases, 7,691 summarily convicted, and 121 sent for trial in the superior courts. These included 235 cases remaining over from 1891.

Nature of Offence.	Reported to the Police.	Apprehended or summoned,				
		Discharged for want of Evidence.	Dismissed on merits.	Summarily Convicted.	Sent for Trial.	Total.
Offences against the person - -	4,224	1,509	1,073	1,518	62	4,162
Prædial larceny -	796	271	114	393	—	778
Offences against property other than prædial larceny - -	1,915	637	337	720	48	1,742
Other offences -	10,053	3,003	1,819	5,060	11	9,893
Total - -	16,988	5,420	3,343	7,691	121	16,575

Of the 7,691 summarily convicted, 5,166 paid fines, 1,192 were imprisoned in lieu of payment of fines, 491 were peremptorily imprisoned, 44 (boys under 16 years of age) were whipped, and 798 were bound over.

The following table shows the number of cases heard in each Presidency :—

Punishment.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
Fined - - -	1,742	1,871	1,273	228	52	5,166
Imprisoned in lieu of fine - - -	343	524	279	40	6	1,192
Peremptorily imprisoned -	177	186	102	26	—	491
Whipped - -	—	20	16	8	—	44
Bound over - -	12	26	745	1	14	798
Totals - -	2,274	2,627	2,415	303	72	7,691

In addition to the 121 cases sent on for trial in the superior courts, 37 cases remaining over from 1891 were set down for hearing.

There were convictions in 78 cases, and acquittals in 49. A nolle prosequi was entered in five cases, one man died while awaiting trial, and 25 awaited trial at the close of the year.

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1892.

The statistics for each Presidency are given below:—

—	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
Awaiting trial in 1891.	19	15	—	—	3	37
Committed in 1892	61	31	23	5	1	121
Total - -	80	46	23	5	4	158
Convicted - -	38	22	14	3	1	78
Acquitted - -	20	19	7	1	2	49
Nolle prosequi -	3	—	—	1	1	5
Died awaiting trial	1	—	—	—	—	1
Awaiting trial -	18	5	2	—	—	25
Total - -	80	46	23	5	4	158

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.—During the year 3,432 persons were treated in the various hospitals in the colony, 1,537 were discharged cured, 985 relieved, and 47 not improved; 456 died.

There were 1,582 medical cases with 389 deaths, 1,089 surgical cases with 43 deaths, and 188 obstetrical cases with seven deaths. The eye, ear, throat and other special senses cases numbered 573, with 17 deaths. The death-rate was highest in the Nevis Hospital (21·96 per cent.), and lowest in the Roseau Infirmary (4·09 per cent.). The total death percentage was 13·31. In Antigua the death-rate (18·47) was affected by an epidemic of influenza, which existed in the early part of the year, and to this cause it is probable that the large death-rate in the Nevis Hospital is also due. St. Kitts and Nevis were both visited by the influenza in the months of April and May. A new hospital, to take the place of the "Sandy Point" Hospital, which had become too dilapidated to repair, was opened on 31st March. It was named by the Governor the "Pogson" Hospital, in recognition of the interest shown in its erection by the late Mr. Edward Pogson, a member of the St. Kitts Executive Council. The hospital consists of three blocks of buildings, the centre one, consisting of two stories, contains 26 beds, those on either side contain 12 beds each. An operating room, dispensary, and post-mortem room, with the kitchen and other out offices form a line at the back of the main buildings. The nurses' rooms are at right angles to the two lines of buildings.

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A new hospital in Montserrat is in course of erection. On its completion it will be possible to relegate paupers not requiring medical treatment to a separate building, leaving the hospital free for legitimate use.

At Portsmouth, in Dominica, a cottage hospital was experimentally opened in the latter part of the year.

There is every prospect of new hospital buildings being erected in Antigua at an early date, and an excellent site has already been selected; when new buildings are available, something may be done towards utilizing the site of the old buildings by the establishment thereon of a workhouse proper and a home for convalescing patients and others (such as ulcer cases), who, being able to work, even in a modified form, should be made, while earning remuneration for themselves, to contribute towards the cost of their keep. I append tables, showing the numbers treated in each hospital and other details:—

—		Remaining at beginning of 1892.	Admitted in 1892.	Discharged.			Dead.	Remaining at end of 1892.
				Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.		
Antigua	Male -	77	682	200	361	—	129	69
	Female	41	575	139	294	—	125	58
Cunningham	Male -	31	503	352	100	2	57	42
	Female	54	473	293	78	6	75	56
Pogson	Male -	18	106	70	34	2	4	14
	Female	11	103	57	26	6	11	14
Nevis	Male -	24	48	27	10	4	17	14
	Female	27	24	16	4	1	10	20
Roseau (Infirmary)	Male -	21	227	173	36	16	11	15
	Female	15	103	68	28	8	4	7
Roseau (Yaws)	Male -	8	63	52	—	—	3	16
	Female	12	68	60	—	—	—	20
Montserrat	Male -	29	11	13	7	—	3	25
	Female	54	23	17	6	2	7	37
Virgin Islands	Male -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - -		423	3,009	1,537	985	47	456	407

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—	Antigua.		Cunningham.		Pogson.		Nevis.		Roseau Infirmary.		Yaws Hospital, Roseau.		Montserrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Medical - -	745	214	414	117	114	15	58	21	139	13	—	—	111	9	1	—	1,582	389
Surgical - -	218	16	418	15	65	—	55	6	176	2	151	3	6	1	—	—	1,089	43
Obstetrical -	126	7	24	—	20	—	4	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	188	7
Special senses -	286	17	205	—	39	—	6	—	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	573	17
Total -	1,375	254	1,061	132	238	15	123	27	366	15	151	3	117	10	1	—	3,432	456

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1892.

Lunatic Asylums.—One hundred and sixty-three persons were treated as insane during the year. There were 49 new cases, 26 were cured and 29 died. All the deaths occurred at the Rat Island Asylum; at the Ridge there were none. The tables given below show the numbers admitted into each asylum and the islands from which they were received:—

Rat Island.

—	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Mont-serrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Remaining end of 1891 -	14	21	4	8	10	8	3	3	4	3	35	43
Admitted in 1892 - -	14	10	3	8	2	9	—	1	—	2	19	30
Total - - -	28	31	7	16	12	17	3	4	4	5	54	73
Sent to the Ridge - -	6	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	7	4
Total - - -	22	29	6	16	12	15	3	4	4	5	47	69
Discharged - - -	7	3	—	3	1	1	2	—	—	—	10	7
Balance - - -	15	26	6	13	11	14	1	4	4	5	37	62
Died - - - -	5	11	—	3	3	4	—	1	—	2	8	21
Remaining end of 1892 -	10	15	6	10	8	10	1	3	4	3	29	41

The Ridge.

—	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Mont-serrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Remaining end of 1891 -	10	10	6	4	3	1	1	1	—	—	20	16
Admitted in 1892 - -	6	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	7	4
Total - - -	16	12	7	4	3	3	1	1	—	—	27	20
Discharged - -	6	2	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	7	5
Balance - -	10	10	6	2	3	2	1	1	—	—	20	15
Died - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Remaining end of 1892 -	10	10	6	2	3	2	1	1	—	—	20	15

With a view to decreasing the death-rate in the Rat Island Asylum three nurses, specially trained in the Holberton Hospital, were appointed to attend the sick, a better hospital dietary was provided and the wants and comforts of the patients carefully

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studied, nevertheless with a daily average of 78 in 1892, as against 72 in 1891, the mortality increased from 19 to 29. It is true that many of those who died were of mature age and that influenza was prevalent, there being nine deaths from phthisis alone, but, there can be no doubt that the chief cause of this great mortality is the unsuitability of the building for the purposes to which it has been put.

Leper Asylums.—There were 29 lepers in the Antigua Asylum at the end of 1892, three were admitted during the year andfour died. The cause of death was in each case leprosy. As already pointed out, there is no law for the compulsory segregation of lepers, while the building, set apart for their use are unsuited for the purposes.

In St. Kitts there is a law dealing with pauper lepers, and of this class 66 were inmates of the new asylum at Fort Charles at the end of the year. There were eight fresh cases admitted and 14 deaths, one from influenza, three from Bright's disease, four from leprosy, one from diarrhœa, one from dysentery, one from gastro-enteritis, one from dropsy, and one a child born in the asylum, from congenital syphilis. Nearly all the inmates of the asylum, patients and nurses, were attacked with the "grippe" which prevailed in April and May. It proved fatal in the case of one patient.

Leper Asylums.

—	Antigua.			St. Kitts.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining end of 1891	12	18	30	45	27	72
Admitted in 1892	3	—	3	5	3	8
Total	15	18	33	50	30	80
Discharged	—	—	—	—	—	—
Died	1	3	4	11	3	14
Remaining end of 1892	14	15	29	39	27	66

Poor Houses.—To the 280 pauper inmates of the institutions there were added 406. The discharges numbered 336 and the deaths 107, leaving 243 at the end of the year. Of the 42 deaths shown to have occurred in Antigua 30 took place in the General Hospital to which the paupers had been transferred from the Poor House for medical treatment. Out-door relief was granted to 1,326 persons, 349 males and 977 females, the sum of 1,866*l.* having been distributed.

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1892.

Poor Houses.

—		Remaining at end of 1891.	Admitted in 1892.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining at end of 1892.	Numbers receiving outdoor relief.
Antigua	Male	27	54	37	26	18	54
	Female	49	40	46	16	27	140
St. Kitts	Male	29	32	41	—	20	131
	Female	17	40	37	—	20	363
Nevis	Male	5	1	1	—	5	106
	Female	1	—	—	—	1	306
Anguilla	Male	—	—	—	—	—	44
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	103
Dominica	Male	32	104	70	19	47	1
	Female	26	94	54	33	33	7
Montserrat	Male	29	11	20	3	17	3
	Female	54	23	25	7	45	25
Virgin Islands	Male	3	3	3	—	3	10
	Female	8	4	2	3	7	33
		280	406	336	107	243	1,326

In Antigua, in addition to the indoor and outdoor relief given to the poor, some 10,000 cases were prescribed for gratuitously at the city dispensary. In the public nursery 105 young children were fed and looked after during the absence of their parents at their daily avocations. For one child one penny a day is charged and for two children of the same parent three halfpence is charged. The children are taken to and from the nursery daily. During 1892 the fees received amounted to 24*l.*

Botanical Stations.

The principal work of the year has been to place the four Botanical stations of the Colony on a satisfactory basis, but many questions of general utility have occupied the attention of the Department, including cattle disease, Antigua and Nevis, ticks, borers, scale insects, &c. A parasitic cane killer has been worked out in Dominica.

In Antigua the roads have been carefully re-constructed and subsoil drains cut under all the paths. An office, seed house, plant shed, &c. have been erected. The fibre plantations have been extended, samples of cotton, &c. have been reported on from England.

A series of manurial experiments have been commenced, the resulting vegetables having been distributed to the inhabitants of St. John's.

In Dominica there was marked progress in the general condition of the station, and the distributions of economic plants have increased. In St. Kitts the new station has been cleaned and the roads cut. About 10,000 shrubs have been planted out in the station.

The small nursery in Montserrat has been slightly extended, four entrances have been opened up. A Government fibre plantation of about 150 acres has been laid down in Anguilla.

A library and herbarium have been started and several generous contributions have been gratuitously made to them.

Twelve bulletins on various subjects of special interest to the Colony have been issued and freely distributed.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The results of the observations made and collected by the Government Laboratory, Antigua, are given in the following tables. In Antigua the average of the daily maximum shade temperature was highest in August, being 89° F. September and October following very closely with an average maximum of 88¾°. The highest shade temperature recorded on any single day was 92° F. on October 4th. Taking the average of the daily minimum temperature February is found to be the coldest month with an average minimum temperature of 67° F. the lowest temperature recorded being 60° F. on April 27–28th. The highest barometer reading was 30·353 (temp. 76°)—corrected for elevation but not for temperature—on April 6th, and the lowest 29·972° (temp. 82°) on November 4th.

It is of interest to compare the mean height of the barometer at different periods of the year for the past three years. It will be seen that in each year there is a high barometer in June, tending to fall pretty steadily to November and with a decided rise in December in each year. The rise of the dew point from May to August is again noticeable this year with a fall in September, a subsequent rise during October and November and a fall in December.

In the city of St John's, Antigua, the rainfall for the year at the Government Laboratory was 43·29 ins., the greatest fall recorded being 3·33 ins. in the 24 hours ending 9 a.m. on January 5th.

Taking the island of Antigua as a whole, the average rainfall for the 19 years from 1874 to 1892 inclusive was 4562 ins. so that the rainfall for the island for 1892 is 9·98 ins. below the average.

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1892.

In 1874 the	average	rainfall on	41	stations was	31·16 in
1875	„	„	40	„	28·79 „
1876	„	„	36	„	41·98 „
1877	„	„	38	„	49·05 „
1878	„	„	53	„	47·11 „
1879	„	„	52	„	61·50 „
1880	„	„	46	„	49·69 „
1881	„	„	44	„	53·75 „
1882	„	„	45	„	33·04 „
1883	„	„	56	„	55·51 „
1884	„	„	56	„	43·98 „
1885	„	„	53	„	43·39 „
1886	„	„	55	„	47·78 „
1887	„	„	50	„	43·68 „
1888	„	„	47	„	44·23 „
1889	„	„	50	„	73·59 „
1890	„	„	45	„	33·00 „
1891	„	„	45	„	50·01 „
1892	„	„	53	„	35·64 „

No violent cyclone has passed near these islands during the past year.

Two West Indian hurricanes, both presenting some abnormal features, have been reported.

On August 15th the barometer at this station showed signs of falling, the wind being W. to N.W. and very light, the barometer remained low until the afternoon of the 17th, when it began to rise on the 16th and 17th steady southerly winds prevailed. The "Pilot Chart of the North Atlantic" (U.S. Hydrographic Office) contains the following note :—"Dates received seem to indicate that "the recent August hurricane followed a very unusual track in the "tropics, moving, apparently, in a south-westerly direction towards "St. Thomas before taking the usual north-westerly track."

The second storm was the one which passed over Trinidad on October 6th and followed a course along the northern coast of South America. A hurricane on so low a latitude is unusual. On October 22nd there were threatening appearances in Dominica, the barometer rapidly fell $\frac{2}{10}$ of an inch and heavy gusts of wind from eastward, force 9 to 10 (Beaufort's scale) followed. As no report of bad weather was received from elsewhere it is probable the disturbance was quite local.

The following is from the Meteorological Register kept at the Government Laboratory, St. John's, Antigua :—

Date.	Thermometer.				Dew Point.		Thermometer		Barometer.		Rainfall.
	Dry.		Wet.								
	9 a.m.	3 p.m.	9 a.m.	3 p.m.	9 a.m.	3 p.m.	Max.	Min.	9 a.m.	3 p.m.	
January	78	80¾	72½	73	68½	67⅓	84	68⅓	30·203	30·125	5·64
February	77	81	70	71½	64½	65	84¾	67	30·190	30·121	0·91
March	83⅓	82¾	71¾	72¾	66	65	86½	69⅔	30·207	30·142	1·02
April	80½	82	71	72	65	64½	86	71	30·227	30·171	1·59
May	81	82	74½	75	70½	70	85½	74	30·218	30·165	1·99
June	83	84⅓	75½	72	70	70	87	74½	30·258	30·222	3·77
July	83	85⅓	72½	77	71	71	88	74¾	30·250	30·226	3.87
August	84	86	77	76¾	72	70	89	74¾	30·177	30·145	2·58
September	83¾	85	76	76	70¼	71½	88¾	73	30·190	30·140	4·68
October	83½	85	76½	77	71¾	72	88¾	73	30·152	30·089	5·22
November	80½	82½	75½	76	72	71⅓	85	71	30·120	30·055	10·03
December	79	81	72½	73	68	68	84½	70	30·190	30·130	1·99
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	43·29

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1892.
——

Post Office.

Omitting from consideration the transactions of our inland postal service the total number of articles which passed through the Post Offices in 1892 was 486,281, made up as follows:—

—	Received.	Despatches.
Letters and cards - - -	169,453	157,894
Papers and books - - -	122,357	29,720
Parcels post - - - -	5,485	1,372

From the United Kingdom we received 43,221 letters and cards, 73,881 papers and books, and 4,252 articles by parcels post.

From the United States of America we received 20,430 letters and cards, 23,040 papers and books, and 351 articles by parcels post.

To the United Kingdom we sent 35,564 letters and cards, 7,831 papers and books, and 821 articles by the parcels post.

To the United States of America we sent 15,106 letters and cards 1,972 papers and books, and 59 articles by parcels post.

The number of articles registered was 8,648, unpaid and taxed letters numbered 3,596; there were 529 "dead letters" returned to the Colony and 126 returned from the Colony.

The money order transactions amount to 80,872*l.*, the orders issued in the Colony amounting to the value of 72,216*l.*, and those paid to 8,656*l.* On the United Kingdom we drew 48,007*l.*, and on the United States of America 14,059*l.* We paid for these countries 990*l.* and 670*l.* respectively. On Canada, which has only recently entered into our money order system, we drew 584*l.* On Barbados we issued orders to the value of 3,252*l.* and we paid for orders drawn on us 241*l.*

Between the islands forming the Colony money orders passed to the extent of 10,848*l.*

The transactions of each office are shown in the following table:—

Post Office.	Letters, Papers, &c.			Parcels post.	Money Orders.		
	Received.	Sent.	Total.		Drawn.	Paid.	Total.
					£	£	£
Antigua - -	117,124	75,705	192,829	3,215	36,414	2,716	39,130
St. Kitts - -	87,782	57,652	145,434	1,703	6,514	3,046	9,560
Nevis - - -	10,986	7,004	17,990	382	4,175	399	4,574
Dominica - -	49,212	29,726	78,938	930	12,664	1,730	14,394
Montserrat - -	22,673	14,789	37,462	572	12,388	736	13,124
Virgin Islands -	4,033	2,738	6,771	55	61	29	90
Total -	291,810	187,614	479,424	6,857	72,216	8,656	80,872

The transactions of the Antigua inland post have not been recorded, but in St. Kitts there were 15,597 letters delivered in the town of Basseterre and 55,291 in other parts of the island. In Dominica and Nevis the deliveries were 23,855 and 35,413 respectively.

In Antigua arrangements have been made for the erection of pillar post boxes in the city of St. John.

The telephone has been working successfully throughout the year in the islands of Antigua and St. Kitts. Its introduction into Dominica and Montserrat would be of great advantage to those islands. A proposal to establish telephonic connexion between the islands of St. Kitts and Nevis has been under consideration.

In Antigua there are three telephone exchanges. At the city exchange there were 124,693 cases. At the Parham and All Saints exchanges, where a record of cases was only instituted in December, 2,739, and 1,754 calls were noted. There were 137 instruments at work, 283 miles of wire in use, and 86 miles of road traversed. I have no particulars from St. Kitts. The post office expenditure for the year was 4,963*l.* and the receipts 4,746*l.* including revenue from telephone. The telephone expenditure was 1,795*l.*, the receipts (Antigua only) were 643*l.*

Savings Banks.

At the end of the year there was a sum of 56,755*l.* to the credit of 2,379 depositors. Of this sum 52,051*l.* was invested in various securities. The credit balance was increased during the year by 702*l.* The deposits amounted to 19,588*l.*, and the withdrawals to 18,927*l.* The number of depositors increased, but, as will be seen from the following statement, both deposits and withdrawals were less that in 1891:—

Bank.	No. of Depositors.		Amount Deposited.		Amount Withdrawn.		Amount to credit.	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua - - -	1,490	1,635	14,708	12,484	15,593	12,771	39,409	39,123
St. Kitts - - -	271	310	2,836	3,930	3,387	2,563	6,126	7,493
Nevis - - -	72	80	643	680	700	645	3,172	3,207
Dominica - - -	240	240	2,356	1,946	2,115	1,520	4,774	4,500
Montserrat - -	98	114	2,440	1,518	2,416	1,418	2,572	2,432
Virgin Islands - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - -	2,171	2,379	22,983	19,558	24,211	18,927	56,053	56,755

Divided among the depositors, the total amount banked would give to each 23*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* The average amount of deposits in given sums is shown below:—

Number of Depositors.	In sums of	Amounting to	Average.		
		£	£	*s.*	*d.*
739	Under 1*l.* - -	204		5	6
879	1*l.* to 10*l.* - -	3,328	3	15	9
254	10*l.* to 20*l.* - -	3,513	14	6	9
233	20*l.* to 50*l.* - -	7,127	30	11	9
118	50*l.* to 100*l.* - -	8,173	69	5	3
156	Over 100*l.* - -	34,410	220	6	11
2,379	——	56,755	23	8	8

A comparison between the number of depositors in each bank in 1891 and 1892 is given in the following table:—

Bank.	Under 1*l.*		1*l.* to 10*l.*		10*l.* to 20*l.*	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Antigua - -	533	583	636	605	132	165
St. Kitts - -	49	60	97	109	34	35
Nevis - -	4	8	26	33	7	7
Dominica - -	49	50	103	98	31	36
Montserrat - -	28	38	29	34	9	11
Total -	663	739	891	879	213	254

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1892.

(*continued*)

—	20*l.* to 50*l.*		50*l.* to 100*l.*		Over 100*l.*	
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.
Antigua	121	121	66	62	102	99
St. Kitts	54	60	3	23	14	23
Nevis	12	10	8	7	15	15
Dominica	27	28	17	17	13	11
Montserrat	16	14	7	9	9	8
Total	230	233	121	118	153	156

The lodgments by means of penny postage stamps, under the Penny Savings Bank arrangements, introduced in 1891, amounted to 32*l.* 10*s.*, being an average of 2*l.* 14*s.* a month. This means that 54 lodgments a month were made by persons who previously did not make any savings.

GENERAL.

In concluding this report I take the opportunity of referring briefly to some of the reforms carried out and work performed during the last few years, as these will, I think, serve to indicate the progress recently made by the Colony towards further development and increased prosperity.

A steam service between the islands of the Colony, which, in addition to other obvious advantages, has facilitated the introduction of our improved postal service and led to an increase in our local trade, has been brought about; a steam ferry between the islands of St. Kitts and Nevis has been established, the water supply of Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat has been considerably increased, the telephone has been established in the islands of Antigua and St. Kitts, new roads and bridges have been made and existing roads have been improved. Botanical stations have been created, industrial schools and a stock farm established, and compulsory primary education introduced, while technical and secondary education have received attention. The charitable institutions have been improved, a leper asylum and a new hospital have been built, another hospital is in process of erection. The prison service has been re-organised and the prison buildings improved. Streams, quarantine, sanitation, and harbour lights and buoys have each in their turn been dealt with. The interchange of money orders with Canada and a parcels post have been arranged. Our laws have undergone a much needed revision and in addition to many other measures a uniform customs tariff and unified postage stamps have been introduced. All this has not been accomplished without difficulty, but, aided by legislative bodies who have shown themselves willing to assist loyally

Leeward Islands. 1892.

towards the advancement of their Colony, it has been patiently and perseveringly accomplished without any increase in taxation other than that recently necessitated by our altered commercial relations with the United States of America.

FRED EVANS,
Colonial Secretary of the
Leeward Islands.

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No. 112.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1893.

(For Report for 1892, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 77.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1894.

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1894.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
76	Bahamas	1892
77	Leeward Islands	"
78	Trinidad and Tobago	"
79	Malta	"
80	Gambia	"
81	Straits Settlements	"
82	Grenada	"
83	Barbados	"
84	St. Vincent	"
85	Hong Kong	"
86	St. Lucia	"
87	Falkland Islands	"
88	Gold Goast	"
89	Basutoland	1892–93
90	Ceylon	1892
91	Zululand	"
92	Mauritius	"
93	Labuan	"
94	British Honduras	"
95	Lagos	"
96	Sierra Leone	"
97	Fiji	"
98	Rodrigues	"
99	St. Helena	"
100	British Bechuanaland	1892–93
101	British Guiana	"
102	Newfoundland	1892
103	Jamaica	1892–93
104	Victoria	1892
105	Bermuda	1893
106	Gambia	"
107	Hong Kong	"
108	St. Vincent	"
109	Gibraltar	"
110	Bahamas	"
111	Turks and Caicos Islands	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.

No. 112.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1892, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 77.)

Sir W. F. Haynes Smith to the Marquess of Ripon.

Government House, Antigua,
June 11, 1894.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Leeward Islands for the year 1893, accompanied by the full report of the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. F. Haynes Smith.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Antigua,
May 28, 1894.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency my Report on the Returns forming the Blue Book of the Leeward Islands Colony for the year 1893.

The Customs statistics have been prepared and classified, as far as has been found possible, in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee appointed in 1891, to inquire into the compilation of Import and Export statistics in the Colonies, and to facilitate reference I have added an index.

I have, &c.
(Signed) Fred. Evans,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
Sir W. F. Haynes Smith, K.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

REVENUE.

The revenue yielded 137,010*l.*; a sum of 5,538*l.* more than was received in 1892, but 3,807*l.* less than the amount estimated for. The following table gives the figures for each Presidency.

Presidency.	Estimated 1893.	Actual Receipts.	
		1893.	1892.
	£	£	£
Antigua - -	51,794	50,881	52,551
St. Kitts-Nevis - -	48,354	53,859	47,231
Dominica - -	24,695	22,347	22,716
Montserrat - -	8,547	8,371	7,609
Virgin Islands - -	1,889	1,552	1,365
Total - -	135,279	137,010	131,472

For Antigua, a smaller revenue than that of 1892 was anticipated, but it was thought that the estimate would have been fully realised, that it was not is due to the non-receipt during the year of contributions from other Presidencies for the maintenance of lunatics and prisoners. The Customs and Excise receipts were both less than those of the previous year, the first 482*l.* and the latter 705*l.*, but they were respectively 1,215*l.* and 705*l.* in excess of the estimates. In the tonnage dues there was a falling off of 376*l.* On the other heads the revenue was maintained.

In St. Kitts-Nevis, a revenue (53,859*l.*) 5,505*l.* in excess of the estimate and 6,628*l.* more than that of 1892 was obtained, but it includes an advance of 3,689*l.* repaid to General Revenue from loan funds under Ordinance No. 6 of 1893. There was an increase of 1,386*l.* in the receipts, under Excise, and of 791*l.* under the statistical tax imposed by Ordinance No. 13 of 1892.

There were small losses on some of the heads of revenue, which were compensated for by gains on other heads.

Dominica, although only 369*l.* short of its 1892 revenue, failed to reach the estimate by 1,348*l.* The amount realised was 22,347*l.*, and the amount estimated 24,695*l.* Under Customs, there was a deficiency of 1,116*l.*, which is attributed to the stoppage of the expenditure upon Public Works, and to the prevalence of smuggling. The House and Land tax receipts were 410*l.* less than in the previous year. Under Excise, there was an increase of 794*l.*, and under liquor and still licenses an increase of 233*l.*

In Montserrat, although the estimated revenue (8,547*l.*) was not fully secured, an amount (762*l.*) in excess of the 1892 receipts (7609*l.*) was obtained. There was an increase of 453*l.* in the Customs receipts and of 239*l.* in the amount received as Excise.

In the Virgin Islands, there was an increase of 187*l.* over the receipts of 1892 (1,365*l.*). The increase was received under tonnage (98*l.*) and Land Tax (84*l.*) and is the outcome of the legislation of the previous year.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure was 138,260*l.* It exceeded the amount provided in the estimates for the year by 4,684*l.*, and the disbursements of the previous year by 6,515*l.* For these excesses, St. Kitts and Dominica are responsible, the former having expended 8,621*l.*, more than the estimate, and 5,469*l.* more than in 1892, and the latter having similarly spent 1,622*l.* and 3,743*l.*

In Antigua, the expenditure was only 93*l.* in excess of the amount estimated, and only 297*l.* more than in 1892; in Montserrat the amount spent was 497*l.* less than was estimated, and only 50*l.* in excess of the 1892 disbursements; in the Virgin Islands there was 244*l.* less spent than in 1892, and 155*l.* saved on the estimate.

In Dominica and in the Virgin Islands, the expenditure was not covered by the receipts, but in the other Presidencies the revenue was in excess of the disbursements.

Presidency.	Estimated 1893.	Actual Expenditure.	
		1893.	1892.
	£	£	£
Antigua - - -	50,777	50,870	50,373
St. Kitts-Nevis - -	48,354	51,975	46,506
Dominica - - -	24,196	25,818	25,075
Montserrat - -	8,379	7,882	7,832
Virgin Islands - -	1,870	1,715	1,959
Total - -	133,576	138,260	131,745

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1893.

Presidency.	Revenue. 1893.	Expenditure. 1893.	Revenue. Over Expenditure.	Revenue. Under Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
Antigua - - -	50,881	50,870	11	—
St. Kitts-Nevis - -	53,859	51,975	1,884	—
Dominica - -	22,347	25,818	—	3,471
Montserrat - -	8,371	7,882	489	—
Virgin Islands -	1,552	1,715	—	163
Total -	137,010	138,260	2,384	3,634

The charges on account of the Public Debt were increased by 2,104*l.*, and there was an increase of 2,694*l.*, under education. The amount under Hospitals was reduced by 2,637*l.*, a saving having been made in each Presidency, but principally at St. Kitts. On public works of the ordinary and recurrent kind there was increased expenditure to the extent of 2,365*l.*, all but 800*l.* of this increase having occurred at St. Kitts.

By an analysis of the expenditure, I find that the general administration of the Colony cost 3,319*l.*; the collection of the revenue and audit, 9,022*l.*; the administration of justice, 9,624*l.*; and the punishment and suppression of crime, 13,212*l.* On medical and charitable relief there was expended 25,406*l.*; and on education, 14,324*l.* Post Offices, telegraphs, and telephones cost 9,021*l.*; steam communication and transport generally, 3,937*l.*,; and the ordinary and recurrent Public Works, 17,600*l.*

There was out of the year's receipts (137,010*l.*) a sum of 40,614*l.* directly returned to the people in medical and charitable relief, education, public libraries, &c.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The sinking funds for the ultimate extinction of the Antigua Immigration (5171*l.*) and New Reservoir (12,200*l.*) loans, raised

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
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under local Acts, were increased during the year by 234*l.* and 444*l.* respectively. The debt of 8,800*l.* due to the St. John's Savings Bank was reduced by 100*l.* The Wallings Reservoir loan (25,000*l.*) remains at 14,000*l.* as raised locally the expenditure on this work during 1893 having been met from current revenue and by advances, pending the raising of an authorised loan of 100,000*l.*

The usual accretions to the sinking funds were received by the St. Kitts-Nevis loans. For the sum of 5,500*l.* raised out of an authorised loan of 6,000*l.* for improving the town of Basseterre there is no sinking fund, as the Commissioners appointed to carry out the improvements will recover the amount by the sale of the valuable land at their disposal.

To the sinking funds for the ultimate extinction of the loans raised by Dominica and Montserrat the usual contributions were made.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The ordinary and recurrent expenditure upon Public Works was 14,969*l.*, and of this sum more than half was spent upon the repairs and maintenance of roads, streets, and bridges. The expenditure exceeded that of 1892 by 2,364*l.*, and the amount provided during the year by 313*l.*

The exceptional expenditure was only 1,800*l.* as against 20,623*l.* in 1892. It included 735*l.* for quarantine stations in Dominica; 251*l.* for repairs to the Roseau Embankment; and 503*l.* for repairs to the Court House at St. Kitts.

Details are appended.

—	Recurrent Expenditure.			Exceptional Expenditure 1893.
	Spent 1892.	Provided 1893	Spent 1893.	
	£	£	£	£
Antigua - - -	5,381	6,061	5,729	—
St. Kitts-Nevis - -	4,207	4,709	5,767	605
Dominica - - -	2,220	3,300	2,632	1,053
Montserrat - - -	738	546	784	90
Virgin Islands - -	59	40	57	52
Total - -	12,605	14,656	14,969	1,800

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1893.

—	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Repairs to Public buildings - -	572	479	349	43	42	1,485
Repairs to Roads and Bridges - -	3,258	3,010	1,744	611	15	8,638
Water Works - - - -	1,016	403	105	66	—	1,590
Fire Brigade - - - -	63	305	—	—	—	368
Burial Grounds - - -	262	213	16	9	—	500
Government Houses and Grounds -	248	18	6	—	—	272
Botanical Stations - - -	225	175	297	55	—	752
Other Works - - - -	85	1,164	115	—	—	1,364
Total - - -	5,729	5,767	2,632	784	57	14,969

The work of the Antigua Botanical Station was carried on actively during the past year. Besides the ordinary sale of plants, a large rockery was added to the station and stocked with valuable succulents from Kew. A series of manurial plots were laid out with different kinds of vegetables, &c. The number of sisal plants in the nurseries was largely increased.

In St. Kitts, the work was somewhat interfered with by the change of curator. The many plants put in the grounds are beginning to show. Very large plant sheds were erected and stocked with ornamental and economic plants, and the station, now in its second year, is rapidly assuming shape.

The Botanical Station in Dominica has proved its usefulness by the very great number of economic plants sold, over 22,000 having been sent out during the year, principally in small lots. This increased demand for plants has taxed the resources of the station to the utmost. An extra grant of 50*l.* has been made for the work of the current year.

The small Botanic garden in Montserrat was slightly enlarged, and new walks and seats were added. The station was without a curator for a good part of the year, and not much progress can be reported.

Legislation.

The General Legislative Council met at Antigua on the 7th December, 1893, and adjourned on the 8th to the 4th January of the present year. One Act only was passed. This empowered the Governor to declare by Proclamation any prison to be closed, and authorised the delegation of the powers to order removals of prisoners.

The local Councils of each Presidency met frequently and at various times throughout the year. The Antigua Council passed five Acts which received assent, the St Kitts-Nevis Councils six, the Dominica Assembly and the Montserrat Council four each and the Virgin Islands Council one. Of these 20 Acts, 17, or all but three, had reference to the fiscal necessities of the several Presidencies.

The remaining three provided (a) for a Public Market in the town of Parham, Antigua; (b) for the prevention of the spread of the swine epidemic in Antigua; and (c) for the conferring certain powers on the Commissioner appointed by Her Majesty to make inquiry into the affairs of the Island of Dominica.

Civil Establishment.

The Chief Justice (Sir Henry Wrenfordsley), who went on leave of absence on the 1st of June, 1893, did not return during the year. In his absence, the first Puisne Judge (Mr. Thomas Baynes) acted as Chief Justice, and the Solicitor-General (Mr. C. H. Beard) acted as Judge.

Mr. Oliver Smith, M.A., was appointed Attorney-General *vice* Mr. C. G. Walpole, promoted to the Chief Justiceship of the Bahamas.

The Treasurer of Antigua (Mr J. F. Wylde) was pensioned, his office being filled by the promotion of Mr. Auchinleck, the Treasurer of St. Kitts, whose place was taken by Mr. James Burns, the harbour master and landing surveyor of Antigua.

Mr. F. S. Wigley acted as Commissioner of St. Kitts, during the absence on leave of Captain J. S. Churchill, from the 1st May to 9th November, 1893. In Dominica the Magistracy of district F., which was held by Mr. Le Hunte, in conjunction with his appointment as Commissioner, was made a separate office to which Mr. Roper was temporarily appointed. Mr. Garraway, the Postmaster, succeeded Mr. Roper, and Mr. F. S. Fadelle replaced Mr. Garraway. Mr. W. Skinner and Mr. F. Green were respectively appointed Headmaster and Superintendent of the Grammar and Industrial Schools opened at Roseau during the year.

There were other appointments of a minor character made during the year.

PENSIONS.

There was a net increase of 253*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* in the amount of the pension list at the end of the year. By the death of pensioners, it was reduced by 245*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* and by new awards it was increased by 498*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* The list is made up as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Federal Police pensions - - -	195	9	2
Other Federal pensions - - -	798	11	6
Antigua pensions - - -	994	12	4
St. Kitts-Nevis pensions - - -	2,016	0	11
Dominica pensions - - -	591	19	1
Montserrat pensions - - -	132	19	1
Virgin Islands pensions - - -	134	16	2

A sum of 4,864*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* is thus annually payable by the Colony.

POPULATION.

There were 1,742 more births than deaths registered in 1893, and without having regard to migration, as to which there are no records, the population is thus increased from 129,591, at the end of 1892, to 131,333 at the end of 1893.

In Antigua, the population appears to remain almost stationary, but in the other islands a gradual and steady increase is shown. In the number of marriages celebrated during the year, an increase is shown by the return of each island, except that of Antigua, where the number is less by 35 than in 1892, and lower than it has been for some years.

Out of the 5,407 births recorded, no less than 3,128 or 57·8 per cent. were illegitimate.

—	Population.		Births.	Deaths.	Population on 31st December 1893.	Marriages in 1893.
	1891.	1892.	Since registered			
Antigua - -	36,380	36,116	1,480	1,377	36,219	166
Barbuda - -	582	582	39	19	602	8
Redonda - -	120	120	—	—	120	—
St. Kitts - -	31,243	31,366	1,386	998	31,754	194
Nevis - - -	13,163	13,394	663	386	13,671	109
Anguilla - -	3,699	3,728	142	32	3,838	17
Dominica - -	27,073	27,397	963	516	27,844	77
Montserrat - -	11,755	12.072	532	266	12,338	67
Virgin Islands -	4,719	4,816	202	71	4,947	
Colony -	128,734	129,591	5,407	3,665	131,333	662

—	Births.			Deaths.		
	1891.	1892.	1893.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Antigua - -	1,413	1,251	1,480	1,338	1,515	1,377
Barbuda - -	37	—	39	30	—	19
St. Kitts - -	1,425	1,317	1,386	1,237	1,194	998
Nevis - -	622	581	663	450	350	386
Anguilla - -	138	92	142	103	63	32
Dominica - -	838	826	963	510	502	516
Montserrat - -	485	504	532	403	187	266
Virgin Islands -	190	166	202	92	69	71
Colony -	5,148	4,737	5,407	4,163	3,880	3,665

EDUCATION.

During the year, the number attending primary schools has once more steadily increased, the numbers on the registers rising from 21,507 to 23,124, an increase of 1,614, and the average attendance going up from 10,188 to 11,439, an increase of 1,251.

These numbers would have been greater had it not been for the impossibility, owing to the want of sufficient accommodation in many districts, of carrying out the provisions of the Compulsory Education Act to the fullest extent desirable. In the last five years, the number of the children on the rolls has been nearly doubled, while the average attendance is rapidly advancing to the same point. The number of children examined in 1893 was 9,498, as against 6,391 in 1892.

The private schools in the compulsory districts have been subjected to strict supervision, and have been registered in accordance with Act No. 7 of 1891.

Technical education has occupied the attention of the Legislatures, and votes for that purpose have been passed in Antigua and Montserrat.

Large sums for the enlargement of, and improvement of, the school buildings have been given to Managers in St. Kitts and Nevis.

A Grammar School was opened in Dominica at the commencement of the year and has met with great success. In the same island, an industrial school for Roman Catholic boys was established.

By the admission of 27 boys during the year, the total number of boys passed into the training school at Skerretts since its opening in June, 1891 reached 206. Of this total, 46 per cent. were sent to the school for theft, instead of being committed to prison, and 40 per cent. were homeless. On admission 70 per cent. could neither read nor write, ten per cent. knew the alphabet, eight per cent. could read and write imperfectly, and the remaining 12 per cent. were able to read and write well. At the end of 1893, there were 163 boys remaining, 21, who were Roman Catholics having been transferred to the industrial school opened at Roseau, Dominica, in January, 1893, for the boys of this religion, eight having been discharged, and 14 having died. The cost per head is about 10*d.* a day. In addition to tailoring, cooking, &c. and looking after a stock farm, consisting of 18 horses, 55 cattle, 58 pigs, and 17 sheep, the boys are engaged in cultivating about 100 acres of land. They are drilled almost daily and have a fixed number of hours set apart for school. A fife and drum and a brass band have been formed from among the boys. In the school at Roseau, Dominica, there were 27 boys at the end of 1893, eight were admitted in addition to the 21 sent from Antigua, one was discharged and one was sent back to the Antigua School. About 30 acres of land were brought into cultivation, three acres were planted in cocoa, about nine acres in limes and about three acres in oranges. Other land is being planted experimentally. There were no deaths during the year.

The training school for girls at Scotts Hill, Antigua, received 24 girls during the year, bringing the total to 49. There was one death, and 6 were discharged. Of those admitted, 18 could neither read nor write.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1893.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The Imports and Exports were valued at 1,025,174*l.*, the trade being distributed as follows :—

Countries.	Imports from	Exports to	Total Trade.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	224,623	59,538	284,161
British North America - - -	26,467	44,048	70,515
Barbados - - -	21,262	2,892	24,154
Other British Colonies - - -	2,919	1,125	4,044
United States of America - -	154,009	406,961	560,970
Other Foreign Countries - -	11,599	27,540	39,139
	440,879	542,104	982,983
Islands of the Colony - - -	20,006	22,185	42,191
Total - - - -	460,885	564,289	1,025,174

To meet as far as possible the recommendations made by the Committee appointed in 1891 to inquire into the compilation of Import and Export Statistics in the Colonies, certain percentages to represent the cost of freight, insurance and packages, have been added to the invoice value of the various entries of import. A memorandum showing the percentages allowed will be found with the returns in the Blue Book.

Classified in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee above-mentioned, the trade was made up as shown hereunder :—

Articles.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
Live animals - - - - -	6,914	4,012	10,926
Food - - - - - -	157,154	521,643	678,797
Drink - - - - - -	13,333	5,786	19,119
Narcotics - - - - -	3,943	581	4,524
Raw materials - - - - -	18,613	4,130	22,743
Manufactured textile articles - -	94,843	644	95,487
„ metal articles - -	33,501	341	33,842
Other manufactures - - -	104,548	4,558	109,106
	432,849	541,695	974,544
Islands of the Colony - -	18,476	22,185	40,661
Coin and bullion - - -	9,560	409	9,969
Total - - - -	460,885	564,289	1,025,174

Particulars as to the value of the trade of each island under specified heads, and as to the countries with which such trade took place, are given in the six following tables.

IMPORTS.

Countries.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	89,217	88,967	34,008	12,125	306	224,623
British North America - - -	9,610	14,317	595	1,945	—	26,467
Barbados - - - -	5,457	2,745	9,686	3,311	63	21,262
Other British Colonies - -	1,011	1,269	489	150	—	2,919
United States of America - -	64,666	72,532	13,038	3,560	213	154,009
Other Foreign Countries - -	1,140	2,961	4,048	291	3,159	11,599
Total - - - -	171,101	182,791	61,864	21,382	3,741	440,879
Islands of the Colony - -	7,830	1,401	2,688	7,943	144	20,006
Total - - - -	178,931	184,192	64,552	29,325	3,885	460,885

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1893.

EXPORTS.

Countries.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	1,844	20,588	26,428	10,678	—	59,538
British North America - -	21,070	17,392	1,574	4,012	—	44,048
Barbados - - - -	430	635	1,701	126	—	2,892
Other British Colonies - - -	374	602	81	68	—	1,125
United States of America - -	159,604	213,594	19,283	14,480	—	406,961
Other Foreign Countries - -	4,311	15,577	2,566	992	4,104	27,540
Total - - - -	187,633	268,388	51,623	30,356	4,104	542,104
Islands of the Colony - -	12,237	5,411	2,129	2,359	49	22,185
Total - - - -	199,870	273,799	53,752	32,715	4,153	564,289

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1892.

IMPORTS.

Articles.	United Kingdom.	British North America.	Barbados.	Other British Colonies.	United States of America.	Other Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Live animals - - - -	859	751	652	118	4,113	421	6,914
Food - - - - -	17,786	18,191	11,024	721	105,602	3,830	157,154
Drink - - - -	9,784	237	1,256	343	177	1,536	13,333
Narcotics - - - -	315	—	2	52	3,307	267	3,943
Raw materials - - -	1,757	4,680	622	6	10,614	934	18,613
Manufactured tex tile articles -	90,282	902	1,253	68	1,982	356	94,843
„ metal articles -	31,134	45	498	69	1,303	452	33,501
Other manufactures - - -	64,703	1,661	5,925	1,542	26,911	3,806	104,548
Total - - -	216,620	26,467	21,232	2,919	154,009	11,602	432,849
Islands of the Colony -	—	—	—	—	—	—	18,476
Coin and bullion - -	5,000	—	30	4,530	—	—	9,560
Total - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	460,885

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1893.

EXPORTS.

Articles.	United Kingdom.	British North America.	Barbados.	Other British Colonies.	United States of America.	Other Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Live Animals - - -	273	—	274	95	—	3,370	4,012
Food - - - -	52,412	43,686	1,562	771	403,243	19,969	521,643
Drink - - - -	4,051	35	—	5	48	1,647	5,786
Narcotics - - - -	3	—	—	—	—	578	581
Raw materials - - -	32	1	780	10	2,655	652	4,130
Manufactured textile articles -	49	—	170	1	—	424	644
" metal articles -	68	200	32	—	6	45	341
Other manufactures - -	2,653	126	84	35	1011	649	4,558
Total - - - -	59,541	44,048	2,892	917	406,963	27,334	541,695
Islands of the Colony -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coin and bullion - - -	—	—	200	—	—	209	409
Total - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	564,289

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1893.

IMPORTS.

Articles.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Vrigin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Live animals - - - -	2,648	4,075	68	123	—	6,914
Food - - - - -	67,575	65,957	16,691	4,694	2,237	157,154
Drink - - - - -	5,611	4,587	2,501	585	49	13,333
Narcotics - - - -	1,881	951	946	154	11	3,943
Raw materials - - - -	7,295	8,052	2,302	852	112	18,613
Manufactured textile articles - -	26,946	43,253	16,505	7,727	412	94,843
" metal articles - -	14,364	11,971	4,889	2,135	142	33,501
Other manufactures - - -	41,781	43,945	12,962	5,082	778	104,548
Total - - - -	168,101	182,791	56,864	21,352	3,741	432,849
Islands of the Colony - -	7,830	1,401	2,688	6,413	144	18,476
Coin and bullion - - -	3,000	—	5,000	1,560	—	9,560
Total - - - -	178,931	184,192	64,552	29,325	3,885	460,885

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1893.

EXPORTS.

Articles.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Live animals - - - -	402	158	125	278	3,149	4,012
Food - - - - -	186,191	261,341	44,314	29,333	464	521,643
Drink - - - - -	13	5,685	88	—	—	5,786
Narcotics - - - -	—	47	531	3	—	581
Raw materials - - - -	23	291	3,432	26	358	4,130
Manufactured textile articles - -	166	35	443	—	—	644
„ metal articles - -	217	—	85	18	21	341
Other manufactures - - -	421	831	2,496	698	112	4,558
Total - - - -	187,433	268,388	51,414	30,356	4,104	541,695
Islands of the Colony - -	12,237	5,411	2,129	2,359	49	22,185
Coin and bullion - - -	200	—	209	—	—	409
Total - - - -	199,870	273,799	53,752	32,715	4,153	264,289

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1893.

Nearly $\frac{8}{9}$ths of the trade of the Colony was with the United Kingdom and the United States of America, the value of that with the latter country being twice that of the trade with the former country. Half the imports came from the United Kingdom; while $\frac{4}{5}$ths of the exports went to the United States. The figures are given in the first table. To make a fair comparison between the value of the import trade in 1893, and that of any previous year, it would be necessary to add to the returns of the past the percentage allowances made in the statistics of the year under review, but as there would be no adequate result for the great amount of the time required in thus treating in their entirety the statistics of any past year, I have only selected for comparison those imports of the year 1892 which show the highest total values, and to those I have added the same percentages given in 1893 returns. The comparative tables are appended.

United Kingdom.

Articles.	1893.	1892.	Increase or Decrease in 1893.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Rice - - - -	6,818	8,348	—	1,530
Spirits - - -	5,170	6,749	—	1,579
Cottons, woollens, linen -	66,044	74,458	—	8,414
Haberdashery and millinery -	36,743	33,595	3,148	—
Hardware - - -	19,167	23,959	—	4,792
Sugar machinery - -	12,770	8,772	3,998	—
Boots and shoes - -	8,869	10,571	—	1,702
Manures - - -	19,044	15,948	—	3,096
Packages - - -	5,497	3,178	2,319	—
Soap and tallow - -	4,771	4,764	7	—

United States of America.

Articles.	1893.	1892.	Increase or Decrease in 1893.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Flour - - - -	57,854	59,240	—	1,386
Meal - - -	12,199	13,384	—	1,185
Corn - - - -	10,455	11,789	—	1,334
Oleomargarine - -	4,527	2,076	2,451	—
Pork - - - -	17,429	17,910	—	481
Pitch-pine - - -	7,221	5,924	1,297	—
White pine and spruce -	7,144	8,182	—	1,038
Oil meal and oilcake - -	8,138	8,029	109	—
Shooks - - -	5,065	3,779	1,286	—

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1893.

From the above, it will be seen that, while there was a considerable falling off in the value of the cottons, woollens, linens, hardware, and manures imported from the United Kingdom, there was an increase in the imports of haberdashery, millinery, and sugar machinery. From the United States, we appear to have received the usual imports without much variation. In the value of the imports received from British North America and Barbados there was a falling off. With regard to the export trade, I append tables which show the values of the principal articles exported to the United Kingdom and to the United States of America.

Exports to the United Kingdom.

Articles.		1893.	1892.	Increase or Decrease in 1893.	
				Increase.	Decrease.
Cocoa	£	13,382	7,857	5,525	—
	lbs.	651,297	397,911	253,886	
Limes and lime juice	£	16,983	12,639	4,344	—
Sugar	£	18,748	32,800	—	14,052
	tons.	1,269	3,082	—	1,813
Rum	£	4,051	7,189	—	3,138
	Galls.	77,753	132,884	—	55,131

Exports to the United States of America.

Articles.		1893.	1892.	Increase or Decrease in 1893.	
				Increase.	Decrease.
Limes and lime juice	£	6,479	55	6,424	—
Sugar	£	390,493	367,082	23,411	—
	Tons.	31,275	32,387	—	1,112
Molasses	£	3,806	3,061	745	—
	Puns.	1,243	1,061	182	—

The total value of the exports to the United Kingdom and to the United States is returned at 59,538*l.*, and 406,961*l.* respectively, and in the above tables the exports are detailed for each country to the value of 53,164*l.*, and 400,778*l.* respectively. The total value of the exports to British North America was 44,048*l.*; it was made up of sugar to the value of 25,140*l.*, and of molasses valued at 17,162.

That the trade between the several islands of the Colony has developed, fostered as it has been by the increased facilities for communication by the subsidized steamer "Tyne," will be apparent on reference to the following table.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1893.

Imports to.				Presidency.	Exports from.			
1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.		1893.	1892.	1891.	1890.
£	£	£	£		£	£	£	£
8,272	7,368	8,210	7,830	Antigua - - - -	12,237	5,894	5,697	4,416
1,341	1,333	710	1,401	St. Kitts-Nevis - - - -	5,411	6,410	6,388	7,147
1,403	2,608	2,538	2,688	Dominica - - - -	2,129	2,527	1,531	1,669
2,708	3,007	4,084	7,943	Montserrat - - - -	2,359	2,785	1,835	808
151	615	234	144	Virgin Islands - - - -	49	190	78	63
13,875	14,931	15,776	20,006	—	22,185	17,806	15,529	14,103

Gaols and Prisoners.

There were, according to the returns, 1,687 persons received into the six common gaols of the Colony. Of these, one was committed for debt, and 92 for safe custody till trial, or in default of surety. There were, in addition, 49 convicted of offences by the superior courts, 270 peremptorily imprisoned by the magistrates, and 1,275 committed by the magistrates for non-payment of fines. The total was made up of 1,014 men, 671 women, and two juveniles. The number of juveniles admitted has very sensibly diminished since the opening of the training or industrial schools, as these institutions now receive nearly all those who were formerly sent to gaol.

The following table shows the number of prisoners committed to each gaol, but, in addition to the 632 received at Antigua, there were 76 men, and 20 women, transferred to this gaol from the other gaols of the Colony, making the total 728.

Convictions.	Antigua.	St. Kitts.	Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
By Superior Courts	21	17	2	8	1	—	49
By Magistrates -	589	383	75	424	66	8	1,545
	610	400	77	432	67	8	1,594
For five years or more - -	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
For one year or more - -	13	8	2	5	—	—	28
For more than three months -	17	29	—	16	2	1	65
For thre months or less - -	576	363	75	411	65	7	1,497
	610	400	77	432	67	8	1,594
Safe custody, default of surety or debt - -	22	15	7	47	2	—	93
Total - -	632	415	84	479	69	8	1,687

As a large proportion of the short-sentence prisoners are on commitment transferred to Antigua for punishment it is to this gaol, one should look for indications of improvement, and it is satisfactory to find that the daily average number in the gaol has fallen from 135 in 1891, to 116 in the year under review. The Antigua prison, owing to alterations in progress, may be said to be in a state of transition, but when its solitary system is complete, and the proposed structural changes made, there will follow stricter discipline and a still further reduction in the daily average. Eight associated wards were converted into 35 separate confinement cells, each with an air space of 796 cubic feet, and for the floors and ceilings of wood, concrete was substituted.

A wash-house, providing a cell for each woman to perform the prison washing in, was put up, the kitchen was considerably enlarged to enable bread and biscuit to be made for the Public institutions, a warders' mess-room built, the Prison Hospital improved and quarters for the Assistant Matron erected. A new system of locks was introduced and numerous other improvements were effected. To enable the solitary system to be properly carried out, it will be necessary to provide new quarters for the Keeper and his Assistant. This being done, the prison could be made to contain 160 cells. Then, with an extension of the yard space, there would be required only to make the Prison one which would, I believe, amply and satisfactorily supply all the needs of the Colony, a set of workshops and store-rooms, a Chapel and some accommodation for criminal lepers. The work could be carried out, as all recent alterations have been, by the prisoners and their officers.

In the St. Kitts Prison, as at Antigua, better arrangements were made for the more complete separation of the sexes.

The total number of admissions to the hospital was 87. In Antigua the daily average in hospital was five or 4·3 per cent. of the average number in prison each day, inclusive of the 96 from the other prisons, and in Dominica it was also five, but 15·1 per cent. of the number in prison. In St. Kitts, with a daily average of 23 in prison, the average in hospital was 0·73.

The punishments numbered 1,138 and were less numerous than last year. Three men only received corporal punishment. There were no deaths or escapes, except at Antigua where there were three deaths among the males and one escape. A coroner's inquest was held in each case of death, in one case a verdict of death from debility was recorded, in the other cases diarrhœa. The prisoner (who escaped while at work outside the prison at Antigua) was recaptured.

The Prison Service cost the Colony 4,126*l.* 7*s.* 0*d.*

Under the authority of an Act passed during the year, a Proclamation was issued declaring the prison at Nevis to be closed.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

During the year 17,807 cases were reported to the police and of these all but two are stated to have been brought before the Magistrates. The numbers were distributed over the Colony, and the offences divided as shown below.

—	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
Offences against the person - -	1,515	1,926	547	228	27	4,243
Prædial Larceny -	332	263	204	32	2	833
Offences against property other than prædial larceny - -	406	1,073	390	148	27	2,044
Other Offences -	3,527	2,735	4,040	308	77	10,687
Totals - -	5,780	5,997	5,181	716	133	17,807

Including those remaining over from last year, (218), the Magistrates had 18,023 cases in all to deal with and hereunder is given the nature of the cases and the manner of their disposal.

—	Discharged for want of Evidence.	Dismissed on merits.	Convicted.	Committed for trial in Superior Courts.	Undisposed of
Offences against the person -	1,583	1,122	1,582	34	28
Prædial larceny - -	309	128	398	2	4
Offences against property other than prædial larceny - -	886	476	625	43	71
Other offences - -	3,561	2,504	4,620	3	44
Total - - -	6,339	4,230	7,225	82	147

Of the 7,225 persons convicted, 5,513 were fined, 1,189 imprisoned in lieu of fine or surety, 293 peremptorily imprisoned, 24 whipped, and 206 bound over.

The following table details the offence for which there were summary convictions and shows the kind of punishment inflicted for the offences :—

Punishment.	Assaults and offences against the Person.	Malicious Injuries to Property.	Prædial Larceny.	Offences against Property.	Offences against Acts relating to Social Economy.	Offences against Master and Servants Acts.	Other Offences.	Total.
Fine - -	1,163	33	223	394	1,722	298	1,680	5,513
Imprisonment in lieu of fine or surety -	280	14	102	92	152	112	437	1,189
Peremptory imprisonment -	81	2	63	88	19	2	38	293
Whipping -	4	1	10	1	1	—	7	24
Bound over or other trivial punishment -	54	—	—	—	100	—	52	206
	1,582	50	398	575	1,994	412	2,214	7,225

The Judges, in addition to the 82 cases sent to them by the magistrates during the year, had 22 remaining over from 1892, or 104 in all to dispose of. Judgment for the Crown was given in 60 cases, and for the prisoner in 23. Eight cases fell through for want of prosecution or were thrown out by the Grand Jury, and

13 remained to be heard. The nature of the crimes is shown in the following statement.

Nature of the Offences.	Judgment for		Found Insane.	Case fell through.	Not disposed of.	Total.
	Crown.	Prisoner				
Murder (other than wife and children murder)	—	1	—	—	1	2
Manslaughter	1	—	—	—	—	1
Attempt at Murder	1	2	—	1	—	4
Rape		—	—	—	—	2
Unnatural Crimes	—	1	—	—	—	1
Other offences against the person	14	5	—	3	1	23
Malicious Injuries to property	7	3	—	1	1	12
Prædial larceny	17	4	—	2	5	28
Other offences against property	16	5	—	1	—	22
Miscellaneous	2	2	—	—	5	9
	60	23	—	8	13	104

The number of the convictions by the magistrates in each Presidency, with the nature of the punishment inflicted, and the Superior Court statistics of the Presidencies, are given hereunder.

Magistrates.

—	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
Fined	1,595	2,230	1,434	218	36	5,513
Imprisoned in lieu of fine	474	339	328	46	2	1,189
Peremptorily imprisoned	114	87	67	21	4	293
Whipped	—	9	10	5	—	24
Bound Over	17	33	126	2	28	206
	2,200	2,698	1,965	292	70	7,225

Judges.

—	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
Remaining from 1892 - -	16	6	—	—	—	22
Committed for trial 1893 - -	22	41	17	2	—	82
Total - -	38	47	17	2	—	104
Convicted - -	22	27	9	2	—	60
Acquitted - -	8	8	7	—	—	23
Fell through -	2	5	1	—	—	8
Undisposed of -	6	7	—	—	—	13
	38	47	17	2	—	104

Although the cases reported to the Police in 1893 exceeded those of 1892 by 819, the number of convictions by the Magistrates was less by 466, it was in fact, as the following figures will show, smaller than in any of the previous four years.

—	1893.	1892.	1891.	1890.	1889.
Offences against person -	1,582	1,518	680	1,557	1,909
Prædial larceny - -	398	393	1,533	377	284
Offences against property other than prædial larceny -	635	724	960	483	862
Other offences - - -	4,610	5,056	4,828	6,004	5,839
Total - - -	7,225	7,691	8,001	8,421	8,894

In the Superior Courts, there were only 82 cases received from the magistrates for hearing, as against 121 in the previous year; while the number of convictions fell from 78 in 1892, to 60 in 1893.

The appended table exhibits, I think, a commendable absence of serious crime in a Colony of 131,000 inhabitants.

—	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	Total in Five Years.
Murder or attempted murder - -	1	1	1	3	1	7
Manslaughter - -	1	2	—	2	1	6
Concealment of birth -	1	—	1	2	—	4
Abortion - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape - - -	1	2	1	3	2	9
Unnatural crimes -	—	—	—	1	—	1

——	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	Total in Five Years.
Other offences against the person - -	29	32	40	25	14	140
Malicious injuries to property - -	3	—	13	1	7	24
Prædial larceny -	4	10	17	9	17	57
Robbery with violence -	—		3	1	—	11
Other offences against property - -	23	18	31	26	16	114
Miscellaneous offences -	2	4	*35	5	2	48
	65	76	142	78	60	421

* Thirteen cases of unlawful assembly in the Virgin Islands.

Hospitals.

Excluding 135 cases of yaws treated at Dominica in the Yaws Hospital, 3,340 were attended during the year in the various hospitals of the Colony. The deaths numbered 451, the cases completely cured 1,291, and those partially cured or relieved 1,123.

The two tables appended give details:—

——		Remaining at end of of 1892.	Admitted in 1893.	Discharged.			Died.	Remaining at end of 1893.
				Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.		
Antigua	Male -	69	669	131	409	—	131	67
	Female	58	681	80	449	—	137	73
Cunningham	Male -	42	498	382	52	—	43	63
	Female	56	420	290	54	2	49	81
Pogson	Male -	14	119	68	32	3	13	17
	Female	14	131	72	38	4	17	14
Nevis	Male -	14	50	19	7	1	16	21
	Female	20	47	9	22	—	9	27
Roseau	Male -	15	199	152	30	4	14	14
	Female	7	91	64	19	4	8	3
Montserrat	Male -	25	17	7	3	1	5	26
	Female	37	32	16	8	2	7	36
Virgin Islands	Male -	3	3	1	—	—	1	4
	Female	8	1	—	—	—	1	8
Total - -		382	2,958	1,291	1,123	21	451	454
Yaws (Dominica)	Male -	16	61	59	—	—	—	18
	Female	20	38	44	—	—	—	14
Total - -		418	3,057	1,394	1,123	21	451	486

—	Medical.		Surgical.		Obstructural.		Special senses.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Antigua	792	254	254	8	157	1	274	5
Cunningham	199	48	610	42	8	—	199	2
Pogson	134	21	78	6	8	—	58	3
Nevis	75	19	31	3	10	—	15	3
Roseau	143	20	105	1	8	—	56	1
Montserrat	105	6	5	5	—	—	1	1
Virgin Islands	14	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Yaws	—	—	—	—	—	—	135	—
Total	1,462	370	1,084	65	191	1	738	15

Lunatic Asylums.—Sixty-eight males and 70 females were treated as lunatics during the year. There are two asylums which serve for the Colony. Both are in Antigua, one, that at Rat Island, receiving all patients in the first intsance, the other, that at the Ridge, being reserved for convalescents. At Rat Island, 109 patients were treated, of these 12 were discharged cured, and 13 were sent to the Ridge Asylum for observation prior to being discharged. From the Ridge, nine patients were discharged cured. There were 29 deaths at Rat Island and three at the Ridge.

In 1892, nurses trained in the Holberton Hospital were sent to the Asylum to attend upon the sick, and a more liberal diet scale was provided, nevertheless there was no diminution in the death-rate and application was therefore made to the Legislative Council for funds to enable certain alterations being made in the buildings with a view to the improvement of their sanitary condition, and these having been readily granted, the buildings were completely "gutted" and a collection of small ill-ventilated cells converted into five spacious dormitories thoroughly well ventilated.

Rat Island Asylum.

—	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Mont-serrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Remaining end of 1892	10	18	6	8	7	10	1	3	4	3	28	42
Admitted in 1893	10	8	5	5	3	4	2	2	—	—	20	19
Total	20	26	11	13	10	14	3	5	4	3	48	61
Sent to the Ridge	3	4	1	2	—	2	—	1	—	—	4	9
Discharged	3	2	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	1	6	6
Died	2	5	4	5	4	5	1	—	3	—	14	15
Remaining end of 1893	12	15	4	4	5	6	2	4	1	2	24	31

The Ridge Asylum.

—	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Mont-serrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Remaining end of 1892	10	9	6	3	3	1	1	1	—	—	20	14
Admitted in 1893	3	4	1	2	—	2	—	1	—	—	4	9
Total	13	13	7	5	3	3	1	2	—	—	24	23
Discharged	3	2	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	6
Died	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Remaining end of 1893	8	11	7	1	3	2	1	2	—	—	19	16

Leper Asylums.

There were 40 lepers under treatment in Antigua during 1893. of these, 11 were new cases. Eight died of the disease and two were discharged. One of those who died, a female, was admitted in 1870 and at her death was 56 years of age. In St. Kitts, to the 66 cases remaining at the end of 1892, there were added seven during 1893. There were as in Antigua, eight deaths and two inmates discharged.

Leprosy was the cause of death in four cases only. Details for each asylum are given hereunder.

—	Antigua.			St. Kitts.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Remaining end of 1892	14	15	29	39	27	66
Admitted in 1893	6	5	11	6	1	7
Total	20	20	40	45	28	7
Discharged	1	1	2	1	1	2
Died	5	3	8	8	—	8
Remaining end of 1893	14	16	30	36	27	63

METEOROLOGICAL.

The following comparative statements, made up from the Blue Book returns, may be of some interest as illustrating the varying climatic conditions of the several islands of the Colony. The Thermometer readings are the means of the daily observations at the seat of the Government or principal town in each of the islands mentioned, and the rainfall also represents that at these towns in 1893. The largest rainfall (87·79 inches) was in Dominica, the smallest (38·17 inches) in Anguilla. In Antigua, October, with 7·98 inches, was the wettest month; in St. Kitts it was September with 6·74 inches; in Dominica, June with 13·39 inches; in Tortola (Virgin Islands) May with 11·78 inches; and in Anguilla, October with 7·47 inches.

The average rainfall over 54 stations in Antigua was 38·53 inches or 6·73 inches below the average of the last 20 years. In St. Kitts, over 28 stations, the average was 56·75 inches; in Dominica, over 11, it was 127·23 inches, 209·42 inches having fallen at one place (Shawford) during the year, and in Montserrat, over four stations, 71·31.

The greatest variation in the monthly average of the minimum shade temperature was shown in Dominica, where it ranged from 61° in March to 76° in August. In Antigua it varied from 67·7° in January to 74·7° in August, and in St. Kitts from 69·17° in March to 74·74° in July.

The highest recorded monthly average of the maximum shade temperature was 90·50° (August) in St. Kitts, and the lowest 81° (in February and in March) in Dominica. In Antigua the Thermometer ranged from 67·7° (monthly minimum) in January to 893° (monthly maximum) in August. The lowest recorded on any day was 60° on February 8th to 9th, and the highest 92°, on ten occasions, viz.: August 3, 9, 10, 14, 21, 24, September 30th, October 1st, 9th, and 10th.

In St. Kitts, the minimum was 69·17° in March and the maximum 90·50° in August. In Dominica, they were 61° and 86° respectively (September and October).

The Colony has been most fortunate in escaping the violence of the numerous cyclones which have originated near, or passed close to, the islands during the year. The following hurricanes gave rise to some anxiety:—

(1.) The cyclone originating on August 12th in 12° N. 30° W. This disturbance passed over Guadeloupe on August 15th; over Porto Rico on the night of August 16th; then travelled parallel with the eastern coast of the United States on August 20th to 22nd, after which it curved eastward across the North Atlantic and expended its energy in about longitude 40° W. on August 24th.

(2.) Another storm originated far out in the Atlantic on August the 16th and passed to the Northward of the Virgin Islands on August 20th. This cyclone struck the United States coast on August 24th, in the neighbourhood of New York, and passed directly over New York City, causing much damage to property.

(3.) A third cyclone originated on August 18th, and on the 24th was 250 miles north of Saint Thomas. This storm crossed the Bahamas and struck the United States coast near Savannah on the morning of the 28th, causing frightful loss of life amongst the inhabitants of the low-lying coast lands; the loss was estimated at 1,200 souls.

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1893.

(4.) On October 4th and 5th a cyclone originated near these islands and passed north of the Virgin Islands on October 6th, proceeding very slowly; it reached the United States coast near Charlestown on the morning of the 13th, proceeding inland and across Lake Ontario on the 14th, causing much disaster to shipping, both in the Atlantic and on the Lake.

Rainfall.

Month.	Antigua.	St. Kitts.	Anguilla.	Dominica.	Virgin Islands.
January	2·78	0·49	0·50	2·69	1·02
February	1·98	3·03	2·10	6·28	3·18
March	3·28	0·95	1·10	2·27	1·15
April	2·61	2·59	4·27	3·55	3·33
May	1·88	6·57	7·09	3·21	11·78
June	2·68	3·61	2·08	13·39	11·31
July	4·12	5·92	1·69	12·88	5·21
August	2·82	2·98	3·14	11·08	7·42
September	4·89	6·74	5·39	10·77	4·23
October	7·98	3·90	7·47	8·38	4·70
November	1·63	1·70	1·38	2·29	0·86
December	3·84	3·87	1·96	11·00	2·84
Total	40·49	42·35	38·17	87·79	57·00

Thermometer (Shade Temperature).

—	Antigua.		St. Kitts.		Dominica.	
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.
January	83·3	67·7	85·19	70·77	—	—
February	83·0	68·7	84·34	70·17	81	71
March	84·0	71·0	85·23	69·17	81	61
April	85·0	70·0	85·53	71·10	83	73
May	86·5	72·7	86·64	73·21	85	75
June	87·6	74·0	87·73	74·56	85	75
July	88·6	74·0	88·48	74·74	85	75
August	89·8	74·7	90·50	75·60	85	76
September	88·6	72·8	89·70	73·53	86	74
October	87·7	72·4	88·00	73·93	86	76
November	87·0	70·6	88·13	72·40	85	75
Decembe	83·3	70·3	83·90	71·38	82	72

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1893.

POST OFFICE.

The Post Office transactions of the year show an increase over those of 1892. Exclusive of the Inland post letters (220,149) there were 586,184 articles dealt with, as against 486,281 in 1892. Details are given in the two following tables.

Articles.	Received.		Despatched.	
	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.
Letters and Cards	209,915	169,453	189,076	157,894
Papers and Books	131,389	122,357	31,190	29,720
Parcels post	5,444	5,485	1,240	1,372
	346,748	297,295	221,506	188,986

Articles. Received and sent.	United Kingdom.		United States.		Other Countries.	
	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.
Letters and Cards	96,333	78,785	47,527	35,536	255,131	213,026
Papers and Books	88,686	81,712	25,512	25,012	48,381	45,353
Parcels Post	5,247	5,073	191	410	1,246	1,374
	190,266	165,570	73,230	60,958	304,758	259,753

There was a very small increase in the money-order business and this occurred mainly at St. Kitts in the orders drawn upon the United Kingdom. The two following tables show the post office work and money-order business of each Island.

—		Letters, papers, &c.			Parcels Post.	Money Orders.		
		Received.	Sent.	Total.		Drawn in	Paid by	Total.
						£	£	£
Antigua - -	1893	121,291	80,844	202,135	2,849	34,818	3,238	38,556
	1892	117,124	75,705	129,829	3,215	36,414	2,716	39,130
St. Kitts - -	1893	112,545	74,031	186,576	1,690	7,945	2,967	10,912
	1892	87,782	57,652	145,434	1,703	6,514	3,046	9,560
Nevis - -	1893	14,948	9,061	24,009	369	4,733	260	4,993
	1892	10,986	7,004	17,990	382	4,175	399	4,574
Dominica - -	1893	55,476	30,430	85,906	964	12,025	1,132	1,315
	1892	49,212	29,726	78,938	930	12,664	1,730	14,394
Montserrat - -	1893	31,762	21,929	53,691	750	13,293	784	14,077
	1892	22,673	14,789	37,462	572	12,388	736	13,124
Virgin Islands -	1893	5,282	3,971	9,253	62	183	10	193
	1892	4,033	2,738	6,771	55	61	29	90
Total - -	1893	341,304	220,266	561,570	6,684	72,997	8,891	81,886
Total - -	1892	291,810	187,614	479,424	6,857	72,216	8,656	80,872

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1893.

—		United Kingdom.		United States.		Within the Colony.		Other Places.	
		Drawn.	Paid.	Drawn.	Paid.	Drawn.	Paid.	Drawn.	Paid.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua - - -	1893	22,895	540	8,161	380	2,014	2,157	1,748	661
	1892	22,378	379	9,937	189	2,367	1,595	1,732	553
St. Kitts - - -	1893	6,469	272	100	386	770	1,771	606	538
	1892	5,494	347	48	323	510	1,890	462	485
Nevis - - -	1893	3,957	20	314	26	157	109	305	105
	1892	3,363	31	68	8	353	236	391	124
Dominica - - -	1893	10,360	109	437	28	610	627	619	367
	1892	10,800	173	635	73	693	1,228	536	256
Montserrat - - -	1893	8,520	79	1,656	41	1,547	467	1,570	197
	1892	5,972	60	3,370	60	1,447	470	1,599	147
Virgin Islands - -	1893	—	—	24	—	117	9	42	1
	1892	—	—	—	18	50	9	11	2
Total - - -	1893	52,201	1,020	10,692	861	5,215	5,140	4,890	1,869
Total - - -	1892	48,007	990	14,058	671	5,420	5,428	4,731	1,567

SAVINGS BANKS.

The amount at the credit of depositors at the end of the year was 59,124*l.*, of this sum there was invested 55,315*l.* The deposits during the year amounted to 25,427*l.*, and the withdrawals to 23,112*l.* The expenditure was 1,664*l.*, and the revenue 1,529*l.* As may be seen from the table giving details for each bank there was an increase in the number of depositors and in the transactions generally.

Bank.	No. of Depositors.		Amount Deposited.		Amount Withdrawn.		Amount to credit.	
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
			£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua - - -	1,635	1,717	12,484	16,683	12,771	15,234	39.123	40,572
St. Kitts - - -	310	389	3,930	4,814	2,563	3,930	7,493	8,377
Nevis - - -	80	88	680	1,084	645	1035	3,207	3,265
Dominica - - -	240	275	1,246	1,622	1,520	1,566	4,500	4,556
Montserrat - -	114	137	1,218	1,224	1,418	1.347	2,432	2,372
Virgin Islands - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - -	2,379	2,606	19,558	25,427	18,927	23,112	56,755	59,142

The average monthly lodgments in the Penny Savings Bank, opened in Antigua in 1891, increased from 2*l.* 14*s.* 0*d.* to 3*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* the deposits numbering 808, as against 648 in 1892.

GENERAL REMARKS.

By comparison with those of previous years, the statistics which have been under review give many illustrations indicative, not only of a steady, continued, and gradual progress towards a position of sound financial and commercial prosperity, but of the improved condition of the people brought about by the expansion of the educational system, and, as I believe, by the increased circulation of money attendant upon the many public works which have recently been undertaken with funds raised on loan. Without any increase in taxation, or any alteration in the taxes other than those necessitated by the McKinley tariff, the annual revenue has been increased during the last five years, by a sum approaching 37,000*l.*, while the annual expenditure, on the other hand, has only increased by about 22,000*l.* The Customs statistics show satisfactory progress; the value of the imports and exports in 1893 being 460,885*l.*, and 564,289*l.*, respectively, as against 405,210*l.* and 509,709*l.*, in 1888, but it must be borne in mind that the 1893 figures are increased by the carrying out of the recommendations of the Customs Committee in 1891 as to freight and insurance. These returns also show that, with only a slightly larger population, the value of the staple articles of food imported rose from 94.084*l.* in 1888, to 104,852*l.* in 1893, that the imports of cottons and woollens similarly increased from 61,097*l.* to 69,690*l.* and that the imports of haberdashery and millinery increased from 26,951*l.* to 37,304*l.* The Savings Banks returns give considerable additions, both in the number of the depositors and in the amount of the Savings deposited; and the criminal returns record a decrease of 23 per cent. in the number of persons committed to gaol.

Upon Education in the Colony, there was spent in 1888, 2,179*l.*; at the end of 1893 the expenditure had reached 14,524*l.*, and it is not expected it will remain at this figure if the compulsory education system introduced in 1891 is to be properly carried out. In Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis it has been recognised that the Government cannot afford to carry out the educational scheme without the assistance of the various religious denominations, and the Legislatures of these Islands have provided 5,000*l.* each towards assisting the denominations in securing the additional school accommodation needed for the increasing wants of the Colony. In 1888 the daily average school attendance was 7,084 in 1893 it was 11,439. It is estimated that at least 10,000*l.* a year is lost to the reveuue by smuggling, and recently preventive measures have been taken in St. Kitts with marked results. During the year, two additional training schools were established, one in Dominica for boys, and another for girls in Antigua.

In Antigua the Wallings Reservoir, estimated to hold 13,000,000 gallons of water, which was commenced in 1890, was practically completed and will be taken over from the Contractors on the receipt of a favourable report from the Consulting Engineer; it remains only to connect the reservoir by pipes, along routes yet to be determined, with the estates and valleys. The Harbour works made good progress, a passage 150 feet wide has been cut through the bar to a depth of 17 feet and it is proposed to continue dredging this passage to a depth of 21 feet, so that large vessels may at once come over the bar and anchor in perfectly smooth water within a few yards of the shore. Continued attention has been given to the streams in Antigua, and by means of a steam dredger much good work has been done. The maintenance of these streams carries with it an improvement in the sanitary condition of the neighbouring villages and the gradual reclamation of any adjoining swamp land.

In St. Kitts, a long felt want, in the shape of commodious Customs and Treasury buildings, is being met by the erection of new offices under contract. Attention has been paid to the drainage and water supply and very great improvements have been made by the extension of the town of Basseterre and by the enlargement of the Prison and the Cunningham Hospital. The water supply of Nevis was extended and in Anguilla the wells were improved and two centres for the cultivation of Mauritius and Sisal hemp established. There was an improvement in the condition of the people, who recently suffered much distress from famine caused by prolonged drought.

A Royal Commission to inquire into the condition of Dominica and as to the working of its political constitution was held by Sir Robert Hamilton. K.C.B., who arrived in the Island on the 21st November, and left on the 28th December, 1893. In the early part of the year serious riots, having their origin in an attempt of the police to serve process, and resulting in the loss of four lives, took place in one of the country districts. Over Melville Hall River, a bridge constructed of stone and iron, with two spans of 54 feet each, was finished, and its erection completed the chain of communication by a good road for vehicles from the Harbour at Portsmouth to the shipping wharf at Marigot, a distance of about 20 miles, over some of the most difficult road-making country in the Island. The establishment of quarantine stations, the repairs to the Roseau River embankment, and to certain bridges, were among some of the other public works carried out during the year.

In Montserrat, with a view to the opening up of the land in the interior of this salubrious, beautiful and most fertile island, considerable attention was paid to the cultivation of new roads and bridges, nearly 4,500*l.* having been expended during the year in this way.

The Virgin Islands, as the outcome of recent legislation, show more signs than formerly of being able to establish at no distant date an equilibrium between their annual revenue and expenditure.

(Signed) FRED. EVANS.
Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 167.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894.

(For Report for 1893, *see* No. 112 of this Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June 11, 1896.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
133	British Guiana - - - - - -	1893–4
134	Jamaica - - - - - - -	"
135	Newfoundland - - - - - -	1893
136	Gold Coast - - - - - - -	"
137	Zululand - - - - - - -	1894
138	Bermuda - - - - - - -	"
139	Bahamas - - - - - - -	"
140	Barbados - - - - - - -	"
141	Turks and Caicos Islands - - - -	"
142	Malta - - - - - - -	"
143	Gambia - - - - - - -	"
144	Windward Islands - - - - -	"
145	Trinidad and Tobago - - - -	"
146	Gibraltar - - - - - - -	"
147	Falkland Islands - - - - -	"
148	Hong Kong - - - - - -	"
149	Straits Settlements - - - - -	"
150	Lagos - - - - - - -	"
151	Seychelles - - - - - - -	"
152	Basutoland - - - - - - -	1894–5
153	Fiji - - - - - - -	1894
154	St. Helena - - - - - - -	"
155	Ceylon - - - - - - -	"
156	Mauritius - - - - - - -	"
157	Labuan - - - - - - -	"
158	Gold Coast - - - - - - -	"
159	British Guiana - - - - - -	"
160	Sierra Leone - - - - - -	"
161	Jamaica - - - - - - -	1894–5
162	British Honduras - - - - -	1894
163	British Bechuanaland - - - -	1894–5
164	Newfoundland - - - - - -	1894
165	Gambia - - - - - - -	1895
166	Bermuda - - - - - - -	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast - -	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand - - -	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone - -	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada - - -	Emigration.
5	Bahamas - - -	Sisal Industry.

No. 167.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1894.

[For Report for 1893, *see* No. 112.]

Sir F. FLEMING to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Antigua,
April 28, 1896.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for 1894, together with the report on the same, which has been prepared by the Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. W. D. Auchinleck.

2. I must express my regret at the delay which has taken place in the preparation of the Blue Book. Such has partly been caused, as mentioned by the Colonial Secretary, by the many changes which occurred last year in the staff of the Colonial Secretary's office, and partly by the difficulty of obtaining all the information required from the different islands which form the Colony.

3. As I only assumed the administration of this Government in March 1895, I do not feel in a position to make any comments on the condition of the Colony in the year 1894.

4. I would, however, remark, with reference to the observations contained under the heading "Leper Asylum," that a measure is now before the Legislative Council of Antigua to provide for the better care of lepers, while I trust that some better accommodation than is now provided for these unfortunate members of the community may soon be found.

5. It is satisfactory to notice the many improvements that have been made during recent years in connection with the postal arrangements for the Colony. The large increase of 33,672 letters and papers which passed through the Post Offices in 1894 over the number posted in the previous year, is a proof that advantage has been taken of the facilities offered, while it may be also taken as a sign of the advance of education generally among the people.

I have, &c.
F. FLEMING.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1894.

REVENUE.

The revenue of the Colony for the year was 147,357*l.*, being 10,347*l.* in excess of the revenue of the previous year. This excess was contributed by the several Presidencies in the following proportions:—

	£
Antigua - - - - - -	6,797
St. Kitts-Nevis - - - - - -	1,584
Dominica - - - - - -	635
Montserrat - - - - - -	306
Virgin Islands - - - - -	1,025

The increase in Antigua was made up by 1,825*l.*, having been realised by the sale of obsolete postage stamps, 3,744*l.* premiums gained on the sale of inscribed stock under the 100,000*l.* loan, and by the receipt during the year of arrears of contributions for the maintenance of prisoners, lunatics, and boys, sent from the other Presidencies.

In St. Kitts there was a gain of 2,700*l.* under Import and Excise, due principally to the completion of the coastguard system commenced in the previous year; 884*l.* was also contributed by rents, post office receipts and taxes; fees of court fell off by 285*l.*, and miscellaneous receipts by 1,792*l.*, the decrease in the latter is, however, due to the circumstance that wharfage dues were included in 1893 under this head as ordinary revenue.

The sale of obsolete postage stamps realised 639*l.* for Dominica, fines also contributed some 261*l.*, which, with trifling increases under other heads, counterbalanced the decrease of some 330*l.* under Excise.

In Montserrat the only item of revenue which differs from the previous year is the excess under miscellaneous, caused by 296*l.* 12*s.* having been received for the sale of the old stamps.

The Virgin Islands also received 953*l.* 5*s.* for the sale of the obsolete stamps of that Presidency.

Expenditure.

The expenditure of the Colony for 1894 was 156,182*l.*, and was in excess of that of the previous year by 16,122*l.*

In Antigua the charges under Head No. 1, Public Debt, showed a very marked excess over 1893, which is explained by the following:—

	£
As interest on advances prior to the raising of the 100,000*l.* loan - - - - -	1,226
Gain on sale of inscribed stock paid over to the Sinking Fund Account - - - -	3,744
And interest to bondholders of the loan above mentioned - - - - - -	2,019

The retirement of Mr. Wylde and the allowance of pensions to pilots with the payment of arrears to these persons for 1893 has caused the excess under the head of pensions.

The expenditure under Board of Health was also increased by 497*l.*, in consequence of special work in cleaning several ponds in the Presidency during the dry season of the year, and by additional expenditure on quarantine services.

Miscellaneous has shown the following increase:—190*l.* under interest and overdrafts and exchange, 206*l.* as the expenses of the Yaws Commission, and 216*l.* under Public Band and Printing.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The charges for interest and sinking fund were increased through an additional loan for public works having been raised during the year.

Pensions have also been increased by the retirement of Messrs. Wylde and Semper and by the payment of arrears of 1893.

Under Police a sum of 1,962*l.* is included as the expenses of the coastguard service.

The cost of maintenance of hospitals and charitable institutions has generally increased, through the insufficiency of the demand for labour consequent upon the short sugar crop.

Education also shows increased expenditure by a marked increase on the roll of the primary schools and by the establishment on a proper basis of a high school for secondary education.

In Anguilla 1,600*l.* has been spent by way of establishing a fibre industry in that island, and additional expenditure of some 850*l.* has been incurred under head No. 26, Extraordinary Works, on the purchase of police stations, repairs to roads, hospitals, and St. Peter's Church, erecting a Treasury building at Sandy Point, and in the extension of the water services at Cayon and Nevis.

Dominica.

The ordinary expenditure of this Presidency shows an increase of 1,675*l.*, which was distributed in small sums between the various heads of service; under Extraordinary Works there was special expenditure on the Roseau sea-wall and on roads and bridges, &c.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt of the Presidencies was increased in 1894 by 100,000*l.* in Antigua and by 23,500*l.* in St. Kitts-Nevis; the sinking funds for the extinction of the debts of the Presidencies were increased by 5,994*l.*, 3,744*l.* of which was the investment of the premiums gained in the sale of the inscribed stock under the Antigua Loan of 100,000*l.*

PUBLIC WORKS.

The following details show the expenditure of the several Presidencies on works of a recurrent nature:—

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1894.

——	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Repairs to Public Buildings - -	388	240	413	42	4	1,087
Repairs to Roads and Bridges - -	3,197	2,666	2,108	641	17	8,629
Water works - - - -	658	832	7	39	—	1,536
Fire Brigade - - - -	122	352	—	—	—	474
Botanical Stations - - -	493	117	378	47	—	1,035
Burial Grounds - - -	238	204	20	13	—	475
Government Houses and Grounds -	177	19	23	—	—	219
Agricultural Department - -	—	1,538	—	—	—	1,538
Other Works - - - -	175	1,180	150	—	—	1,505
Total - -	5,448	7,148	3,099	782	21	16,498

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1894.

POPULATION.

According to the Blue Book returns for 1893 the total population of the Colony was 131,333, the births in 1894, as shown by the following table, were 5,256, and the deaths 3,933, causing an increase of 1,323 for the year. The following table gives the births and deaths of each island :—

Island.	Births.	Deaths.	Increase.
Antigua - - -	1,476	1,303	173
Barbuda - - -	43	21	22
St. Kitts - - -	1,377	1,300	77
Nevis - - - -	605	449	156
Anguilla - - -	138	60	78
Dominica - - -	930	484	446
Montserrat - - -	532	228	304
Virgin Islands - - -	155	88	67
	5,256	3,933	1,323

The population of the two principal islands of the Colony would appear from these figures to have been but slightly increased, while in Montserrat and Anguilla the per-centage of births over deaths shows a considerable addition. It is not, however, possible to give correct returns of the population of the Colony since 1891, as there are no records kept of either emigration or immigration.

EDUCATION.

The rolls of the primary schools have again shown considerable increase, although not equal to 1893; the increase during 1894 was 1,310, as against 1,614 in the previous year, the average attendances have risen from 11,439 in 1893 to 12,069 in 1894. The grants made by the Governments in 1892 and 1893 to the several denominations in St. Kitts and Nevis towards increasing the school accommodation in those islands have caused a very marked result in the first-mentioned island, the number on the school roll in that island having advanced from 6,089 to 6,911, while the average attendance has been increased by 608. In Nevis, although the number on the roll has remained the same, the attendances have been advanced by some 63. In Antigua the rolls show an increase of 337, while the attendances have decreased by 179. In Montserrat the figures of the two years show scarcely any difference, which, in some measure, may be accounted for by the insufficiency of accommodation.

The offices of headmaster of the Government grammar school and analytical chemist in St. Kitts, which were held by the same person, were in 1894 separated, with the result that the average number of boys in the school increased from 3 in 1893 to

20 in 1894, and with the further advantage that candidates are now prepared and presented for the Cambridge Local examinations.

With the exception of the Coke Memorial College in Antigua and the high school for boys in Montserrat, all other schools for secondary education show some improvement.

The training schools of the Colony show an increase on the 31st December of 44 boys and 6 girls, the admissions during the year being 68, while the discharges and deaths were respectively 13 and 5.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The values of the total Imports and Exports of the Colony, exclusive of internal trade, were respectively 430,708*l.* and 439,548*l.*, as against 440,879*l.* and 542,082*l.* in 1893. An examination of the following table shows that while the Imports from the United Kingdom and British Colonies fell off by 20,319*l.*, the increase in the value of goods imported from the United States of America and other foreign countries was 10,148*l.*

Value of Imports.

Country from whence imported.	Value of Imports, 1894.	Value of Imports, 1893.	Increase in 1894.	Decrease in 1894.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	206,920	221,073	—	14,153
British Colonies - - -	47,951	54,117	—	6,166
United States - - -	161,594	154,066	7,528	—
Other Foreign countries -	14,243	11,623	2,620	—
Total - - -	430,708	440,879	10,148	20,319

The comparison of the figures for these two years exhibits the fact that, while the imports from the United Kingdom have decreased by 14,153*l.*, the trade with the United States has increased by 7,528*l.*; in examining the following tables marked B. and C., in which the value and particulars of the principal articles of imports are shown, it will be observed that the decrease has been chiefly in such goods as are used by or on sugar plantations, and on further reference to the value of sugar exported by the Colony it will be at once seen that the decrease in trade is due solely to the purchasing power of estates having been diminished by the low prices realised in 1894.

TABLE B.

COMPARATIVE VALUE of the IMPORTS from the UNITED KINGDOM in 1893 and 1894.

Articles.	1893.	1894.	1894.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
Live animals	1,020	170	—	850
Food stuffs	19,872	18,302	—	1,570
Drinks	11,467	11,364	—	103
Narcotics	327	363	36	—
Raw materials	1,754	1,318	—	436
Manufactured textile articles	103,823	108,747	4,924	—
„ metal „	34,945	26,134	—	8,811
Other Imports	47,865	40,522	—	7,343
Total	221,073	206,920	4,960	19,113

TABLE C.

RETURN showing the PRINCIPAL MANUFACTURES under which large differences appear.

Articles.	1893.	1894.	1894.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
Manufactured Textile Articles.	£	£	£	£
Cotton, woollens, &c.	66,044	66,728	—	—
Haberdashery and millinery	36,743	41,665	—	—
Clothing and cloth	1,036	354	—	—
	103,823	108,747	4,924	—
Manufactured Metal Articles.				
Hardware, &c.	19,231	17,031	—	—
Jewellery	1,399	1,019	—	—
Sugar machinery	12,770	7,067	—	—
Other machinery	1,278	457	—	—
Miscellaneous machinery	267	560	—	—
	34,945	26,134	—	8,811

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1894.

Articles.	1893.	1894.	1894.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
Other Imports.	£	£	£	£
Decreased values of over 400*l.* appear in the following :—				
Bricks and tiles - -	1,014	539	—	—
Leather - - -	3,769	3,105	—	—
Lime - - -	1,333	806	—	—
Manures - - -	19,044	17,938	—	—
Packages - - -	5,497	3,555	—	—
Paints - - -	1,926	1,467	—	—
Rope - - -	2,034	1,508	—	—
Oil - - - -	1,473	1,018	—	—
Wood hoops - - -	1,742	1,243	—	—
Soap - - -	4,140	3,640	—	—
Furniture - - -	1,323	779	—	—
	43,295	35,598	—	7,697

The difference under this head between the Tables B. and C. is consequent upon the value of other importations having been somewhat increased. Trade has, however, in no way been diverted from the United Kingdom to other places, but the decrease in the value of imports is, as I have already remarked, due entirely to the general depression of business through the low price of the staple industries of the Colony.

In Table D. I give a comparative return of the values of the principal articles of imports from the United States of America. Under food stuffs there is a marked increase in the value of wheaten flour, while under oleomargarine there is a decrease of nearly 1,000*l.*; the trade in lumber has been almost equal; oilmeal shows an increased consumption of 815*l.*, and shooks used by estates has decreased by 746*l.*

TABLE D.

COMPARATIVE RETURNS of the VALUE of the PRINCIPAL ARTICLES imported from the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

——	1893.	1894.	1894.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
Flour, wheaten - -	57,854	65,508	7,654	—
Meal - - - -	12,199	12,377	178	—
Corn - - - -	10,455	10,779	324	—
Oleomargarine - -	4,527	3,532	—	995
Pork - - - -	17,429	17,231	—	198
Lumber - - -	14,365	14,186	—	179
Oilmeal and cake -	8,138	8,953	815	—
Shooks - - -	5,065	4,319	—	746
Total - -	130,032	136,885	8,971	2,118

The value of all other goods imported from the United States during 1894 shows an increase of only 975*l.*

EXPORTS.

By way of illustrating the effect that the low prices of our staple products had on the several Presidencies, I give in the following table a statement of the quantity and value of the principal articles of export during 1893 and 1894.

From these figures it will be noticed that, although there was but a difference of 2,657 tons between the exports of 1893 and 1894, the value was reduced by 91,007*l.* There is also a marked decrease in the value of cocoa, limes, and lime-juice which are the principal exports of Dominica; this is consequent upon a smaller crop with a fall in the prices of these articles.

TABLE E.

Articles.	1893.		1894.	
	Exports.	Value.	Exports.	Value.
		£		£
Sugar, tons - - -	34,742	436,807	32,155	345,800
Molasses, puns. of 100 galls. -	10,817	33,708	10,690	30,101
Rum, galls. - - -	100,059	5,238	42,864	1,724
Cocoa, lbs. - - -	687,492	14,329	635,478	8,655
Limes and limejuice - -	—	24,005	—	12,284
Total - - -	—	514,087	—	398,564

In addition to the above five principal articles of export the Colony also shipped, exclusive of internal trade, the following minor products:—

Animals - - - - -	3,417
Fruit and vegetables - - -	1,949
Salt - - - - -	1,296
Starches - - - - -	771
Bay leaves - - - -	1,660
Charcoal and firewood - - -	1,252
Dye woods - - - -	1,677
Hides and skins - - - -	704
Essential oils and essences - - -	1,610
Other miscellaneous exports - -	1,414

The internal trade of the Colony also represented a value of 10,710*l.*; of other exports, which may be regarded as being reshipments of imports, the value was 39,905*l.*

Nearly three-quarters of our trade was as usual with the United States of America. The neighbouring French Colonies received 9,813*l.*, of which molasses for the manufacture of spirits represented 7,276*l.*

The following table gives a comparative return of the total exports for 1893 and 1894:—

—	1894.			1893.		
	Produce of Colony.	Other Exports.	Total.	Produce of Colony.	Other Exports.	Total.
United Kingdom - - -	30,613	2,066	32,679	58,941	420	59,361
British North America - -	61,245	120	61,365	43,967	221	44,188
Other British Colonies - -	2,185	11,446	13,631	2,288	1,295	3,583
	94,043	13,632	107,675	105,196	1,936	107,132
United States of America -	305,023	725	305,748	405,917	1,050	406,967
Other Foreign Colonies - -	15,248	10,877	26,125	19,871	8,112	27,983
	414,314	25,234	439,548	530,984	11,098	542,082
Internal Trade - - -	10,710	14,671	25,381	7,398	14,487	21,885
Total - - -	425,025	39,905	464,929	538,382	25,585	563,967

Within the past two or three years the trade in Muscovado sugar with British North America is being steadily pushed forward by the commercial agents of that country; in 1893 the exports of this article were only 2,020 tons, while the shipments this year have risen to 4,099 tons.

SHIPPING.

In the accompanying tables I give the particulars of the entries and clearances of shipping in the Colony during 1893-94:—

Entered 1893.

British or Foreign.	Steam or Sailing.	Tonnage entered.
British - - -	Steam - - -	832,645
” - - -	Sailing - - -	41,942
Foreign - - -	Steam - - -	917
” - - -	Sailing - - -	28,549
		904,053

Cleared 1893.

British or Foreign.	Steam or Sailing.	Tonnage cleared.
British - - -	Steam - - -	832,645
„ - - -	Sailing - - -	41,418
Foreign - - -	Steam - - -	917
„ - - -	Sailing - - -	27,510
		902,490

Entered 1894.

British or Foreign.	Steam or Sailing.	Tonnage entered.
British - - -	Steam - - -	869,881
„ - - -	Sailing - - -	44,679
Foreign - - -	Steam - - -	1,007
„ - - -	Sailing - - -	25,585
		941,152

Cleared 1894.

British or Foreign.	Steam or Sailing.	Tonnage cleared.
British - - -	Steam - - -	870,141
„ - - -	Sailing - - -	44,665
Foreign - - -	Steam - - -	1,007
„ - - -	Sailing - - -	25,718
		941,531

The direction of the trade during 1894 was as follows:—

1894.

Tonnage entered from	Steam.	Sailing.	Total.
United Kingdom - -	8,574	1,515	10,089
British Colonies - - -	14,257	16,469	30,726
United States - - -	6,237	10,443	16,680
Foreign Ports - - -	303,588	23,125	326,713
Internal trade - -	538,232	18,712	556,944
Total - - -	870,888	70,264	941,152

1894.

—	Tonnage cleared		Total.
	Steam.	Sailing.	
United Kingdom - -	—	—	—
British Colonies - - -	42,617	12,028	54,645
United States - - -	12,403	10,581	22,984
Foreign Ports - - -	295,004	25,507	320,511
Internal trade - - -	521,124	22,267	543,391
Total - - -	871,148	70,383	941,531

It is necessary to explain with respect to the above return that steam vessels arriving from the United States of America invariably call at one or other of the neighbouring foreign islands before arriving at any of the islands of this Colony, vessels so arriving are entered as from the last port; these vessels in like manner usually clear for either St. Thomas or St. Croix on their homeward voyage to America.

Prisoners and Gaols.

The returns for the year show that the total number of prisoners received in the gaols of the Colony was - - - - -	1,779
Of these the committals for non-payment of fines were - - - - -	1,326
For peremptory imprisonment - - -	361
For debt on judgment summons - -	4
For conviction by Supreme Courts - -	33
For safe custody - - - -	55
	1,779

1,014 of these committed were males, 741 females, and 24 juveniles:—

On comparing the returns shown by the following two tables it will be observed that there was a marked increase in the number committed for non-payment of fines and for peremptory committals; committals after two or more previous convictions also exceed 1893, while those having but one previous conviction or sentenced by the Supreme Courts are less during the year under review.

—	Nature of the Imprisonment.					
	By superior Courts.	Peremptory Imprisonment.	For Non-payment of Fines.	One previous Conviction.	Two previous Convictions.	Three or more previous Convictions.
1893 - - -	49	270	1,275	296	131	377
1894 - - -	33	361	1,326	277	155	390
Increase in 1894 -	—	91	51	—	24	13
Decrease in 1894 -	16	—	—	19	—	—

Term of Imprisonment.

—	Five Years or more.	One Year or more, less than Five.	More than Three Months and under One Year.	For Three Months or less.
1893 - - -	4	28	65	1,497
1894 - - -	3	25	80	1,612
Increase in 1894 -	—	—	15	115
Decrease in 1894 -	1	3	—	—

With the increased number in the prison the admissions to hospital were more numerous, but the returns show that the daily average on the sick list was 2·73 below 1893, while the deaths in gaol were 1 against 3 in the previous year. The daily average in prison was 116½.

Under Criminal Statistics it appears that the number of summary convictions in St. Kitts show a very marked increase both under offences against property (other than predial larceny) and under offences not specified.

In Dominica the increase of offences against the laws relating to social economy was due to the combined resistance against the payment of taxes. I give the following figures by way of comparison:—

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1894.

Island.	Year.	Total No. of Offences.	Assaults and other Offences against the Person.	Malicious Injury to Property.	Predial Larceny by Boys under 16.	Against Property other than malicious Injury and Predial Larceny.	Against Revenue, Highway, Health, and Acts relating to Social Economy.	Against Master and Servants Acts.	Other Offences.
Antigua - -	1893	2,206	538	11	143	126	178	309	895
	1894	2,013	537	15	135	121	196	214	795
St. Kitts-Nevis -	1893	2,698	751	19	142	294	528	69	895
	1894	3,595	584	24	172	570	87	58	2,100
Dominica - -	1893	1,965	207	19	95	89	1,243	24	288
	1894	2,457	174	29	119	99	1,632	12	392
Montserrat - -	1893	292	69	—	16	59	37	10	101
	1894	467	98	3	40	78	44	17	187
Virgin Islands -	1893	70	17	1	2	7	8	—	35
	1894	50	19	1	2	4	6	—	18

Leeward Islands.
1894.

The total number of cases to be dealt with during the year was 17,605; of these 5,307 were discharged for want of prosecution or evidence, 3,553 were dismissed, 8,582 summary convictions, 94 committals to the superior courts, and 69 remained untried in the magistrates' courts.

Legislation.

There were two meetings of the Federal Council during the year at which 15 Acts were passed and have become law; the most important were, one to simplify the procedure with respect to the administration of estates of deceased persons, and trusts; and those amending the Acts relating to partition and settled estates.

"An Act to establish a Mutual Fire Assurance Society for the Leeward Islands," with the usual Acts relating to the service of the Colony were also passed.

In St. Kitts-Nevis, Ordinances for the prevention of smuggling, and for the better collection of the duties on spirits and tobacco were passed; the consolidation and amendment of the several laws relating to waterworks, and an Ordinance to provide for the draining and cleaning of certain marsh lands in the vicinity of Basseterre, were about the most important laws passed in that Presidency.

In Dominica, Acts were passed to raise a loan of 30,000*l.* to defray the cost of certain public works and for covering the excess of expenditure from 1883 to 1893; an Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to trade and revenue was also passed.

Hospitals and Asylums.

On the 1st January 1894 the number of persons in the hospitals of the Colony exclusive of those in the Yaws Hospital in Dominica was 454, the admissions during the year were 2,841 so that the cases treated numbered 3,295; of these 1,477 were discharged as being cured, 990 as relieved, and the deaths were 476.

The following table gives the particulars relating to each hospital in the Colony:—

Hospital.	In the Hospital on 1st Jan. 1894.	Admissions.	Discharged as cured.	Discharged as relieved.	Deaths.
Antigua - - -	140	1,197	218	758	244
S.K. Cuningham - -	144	905	707	94	120
" Pogson - - -	31	284	181	52	43
Nevis - - - -	48	105	43	21	26
Dominica - - -	17	296	204	48	29
Montserrat - - -	62	44	19	14	10
Virgin Islands - -	12	10	—	3	4
Total - - -	454	2,841	1,372	990	476

On comparing the above figures with the returns of the previous year, it will be observed that the number of cases treated in the year were 45 less; the per-centages of those discharged as cured in 1893 and 1894 were respectively 38·6 and 41·6.

Yaws Hospital.

The returns relating to the Yaws Hospital in Dominica show that there were 127 cases treated in 1894, as against 135 in the previous year, and that the number cured was 105 as against 103; the comparison is therefore in favour of 1894 both as to the number of cases treated and cured.

Lunatic Asylums.

At the Rat Island Asylum 42 patients were admitted as against 39 in 1893; 22 were discharged as cured or relieved, against 25 in the previous year, and the deaths were in 1894, 16 against 29. The staff of resident servants was increased in 1894 by 11; much improvement has also been made with respect to the general treatment of lunatics by the institution being provided with the services of a warder and nurse who had been trained in a European asylum.

At the Ridge the admissions were 7, the discharges as cured 5, and the deaths 3, the daily average being 33 as against 35 in 1893; this asylum, which is occupied by such lunatics as are either non-violent or show signs of being cured, is situated at a good elevation, and is on the site of the barracks formerly used by European troops. It is under the immediate supervision of the district medical officer, who daily visits the institution.

Leper Asylum.

The asylum in Antigua, which may be regarded more as a home for such lepers as are very poor or have no relatives able or willing to support them, is conducted on a very primitive and inexpensive plan, and is limited as to accommodation; the admissions during the year were 6, and the deaths the same in number. Legislation on the lines of the St. Kitts Ordinance has been frequently mentioned, but up to the end of 1894 the question still remained undecided, with the result that the inmates absent themselves without permission and wander freely about the streets of the town.

From the returns relating to the St. Kitts Asylum the greater number of admissions in 1894 would make it appear as if leprosy were on the increase in that presidency. I am, however, given to understand that this is not the case, but that the increase is attributed to the fact that those who suffer from the disease do not now regard the asylum with the same aversion as formerly but look upon it more in the light of a home in which every comfort is generously provided.

Savings Banks.

The returns for 1894 show that the deposits during the year were 24,212*l.*, and the withdrawals 23,587*l.*, and that the amount of deposits and investments were respectively increased by 625*l.* and 2,040*l.* The number of depositors increased in Antigua and Nevis by 116 and 11; while in St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat they decreased by 7, 16, and 11, leaving a net increase for the Colony of 93.

POST OFFICES AND TELEPHONES.

Post Offices.

The improvements made in recent years in postal arrangements, together with the advancement of education in primary schools, are being evinced by the annually increasing number of letters and papers which pass through the post offices of the Colony; a comparison of the figures for the two years shows the increase to have been 33,672.

1893.

—	Letters and Cards.		Papers and Books.		Parcels Post.		Total.	
	Received from	Despatched to	Received from	Despatched to	Received from	Despatched to	Received from	Despatched to
United Kingdom - - -	50,573	45,760	79,851	8,835	4,458	789	134,882	55,384
United States - - -	29,031	18,496	23,147	2,365	126	65	52,304	20,926
Other places - - - -	130,311	124,820	28,391	19,990	860	386	159,562	145,196
Total - - - -	209,915	189,076	131,389	31,190	5,444	1,240	346,748	221,506
1894.								
United Kingdom - - -	51,878	45,869	89,134	10,520	4,390	806	145,402	57,195
United States - - - -	28,437	17,245	23,519	2,079	190	54	52,146	19,378
Other places - - - -	139,961	135,276	27,891	23,433	854	423	168,706	159,132
Total - - - -	220,276	198,390	140,544	36,032	5,434	1,283	366,254	235,705

Telephones.

Under this service the figures of 1894 show an increase of 40 miles of wire and of 33,507 calls. The returns of the two Presidencies in which telephonic communication has been established are as follows:—

—	Instruments in Use.	Miles of Wire.	No. of Calls.
Antigua, 1893 - -	158	325	190,168
„ 1894 - -	144	345	205,364
Increase - -	—	20	15,196
St. Kitts, 1893 - -	52	162	46,806
„ 1894 - -	84	182	65,117
Increase - -	32	20	18,311

General Remarks.

In concluding my comments on the several items of the Blue Book, I must again revert to the very great falling off in the trade of the Colony, and draw special attention to the effect of the reduced values of our exports on the several Presidencies of the Leeward Islands.

The Presidencies of Dominica and Montserrat suffered severely through a smaller cocoa and lime crop, and from a reduction in the market value of these articles, but the chief loss was experienced by Antigua and St. Kitts, in which sugar manufacture might be said to be the only industry.

A difference of some 91,000*l.* in the value of the sugar exported in 1894 will illustrate how severely the sugar-producing Presidencies were affected, and on reference to the items, machinery, manures, and other articles usually imported by sugar plantations, it will be at once observed that no improved machinery was introduced, and that the importation of manures was very much limited—in fact, the expenditure on estates was restricted to mer cultivation and manufacture only.

Good progress was made in cutting the channel through the bar at the entrance of the harbour of St. John's; and the conversion of the associated cells in the common gaol of the Colony into the solitary system was proceeded with.

Sanitation received some attention, and although much still remains to be done, considerable advancement in this direction has been made during the year.

W. D. AUCHINLECK,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 200.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1895.

(For Report for 1894, *see* No. 167.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
July 1897.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
167	Leeward Islands	1894
168	British New Guinea	1894–95
169	Zululand	1895
170	Sierra Leone	"
171	Gibraltar	"
172	Malta	"
173	Barbados	"
174	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
175	Falkland Islands	"
176	St. Helena	"
177	Bahamas	"
178	Hong Kong	"
179	Windward Islands	"
180	Labuan	"
181	Trinidad and Tobago	"
182	Seychelles	"
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	"
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–6
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	"
194	Zululand	"
195	Gambia	"
196	Malta	"
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1895.

No. 200.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

[For Report for 1894, *see* No. 167.]

Governor Sir F. FLEMING to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Extract.)

Government House, Antigua,
April 14, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1895, together with the report by the Colonial Secretary thereon.

The causes which have led to the unusually long delay in the issue of this Annual Return have been fully explained, and I can only trust, and join in the hope expressed by the Colonial Secretary, that such regrettable delay may not occur again.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1895.

REVENUE.

The total revenue of the Colony for the year was 119,082*l.* as compared with 147,357*l.* in 1894, or a decrease of 28,275*l.* The respective Presidencies contributed to this decrease as follows :—

	£
Antigua - - - -	13,330
St. Kitts-Nevis - - - -	12,227
Dominica - - - -	123
Montserrat - - - -	1,552
Virgin Islands - - - -	1,043
	28,275

If we deduct from the revenue of 1894 the recepts obtained from the sale of obsolete stamps (Antigua 1,825*l.*, St. Kitts-Nevis

1,615*l.*, Dominica 639*l.*, Montserrat 296*l.* and Virgin Islands 953*l.*), also the premium on the sale of Antigua Inscribed Stock, 3,744*l.*; and from the Revenue of 1895 the proceeds of the sale of old stores in Dominica (900*l.*) we find that the true decrease is, approximately, as follows:—

	£
Antigua - - - - -	7,761
St. Kitts-Nevis - - - -	10,612
Dominica - - - - -	384
Montserrat - - - -	1,256
Virgin Islands - - - -	90
	20,103

With the exception of Dominica, which got off lightly, the decrease in the revenues of the various Presidencies is proportionate, or nearly so. Almost every head of revenue has suffered by the general depression in trade consequent upon the low prices realised for sugar. The exceptions are, Customs Duties in St. Kitts-Nevis (on alcoholic liquors only) and Dominica, Excise Duty in Antigua, Land Tax in Montserrat, and Stamp Duties in Dominica, each of which shows an increase. Several other items show trivial increases and a very few remain unaltered. In St. Kitts the abolition of the Statistical Tax caused a loss of 3,267*l.*, whilst fines and forfeitures fell off by 332*l.* In Antigua, Customs Duties fell off by 3,439*l.*, and a temporary alteration in the method of collecting the Land Tax caused a decrease of 2,032*l.* from that source.

Expenditure.

The expenditure of the Colony for the year was 165,374*l.*, as compared with 156,182*l.* in 1894, an increase of 9,192*l.* The respective Presidencies contributed to this increase as follows:—

		£
Antigua - - - - -		10,546
Montserrat - - - -		2,401
Virgin Islands - - - -		352
		13,299
less decrease in	£	
St. Kitts-Nevis - -	3,367	
Dominica - - -	730	4,097
Net increase as above - - -		9,202

Antigua.

13,106*l.* is brought to account under Public Works Extraordinary. This amount was not all spent in 1895; part of it had been expended in 1893 and 1894 and charged, erroneously, to Loan Funds, and not included in the Blue Book returns. The Federal Contribution was increased by 356*l.* owing to arrears of 1894 being included; Education by 820*l.*, owing to a more liberal grant in aid of primary and secondary schools; Port and Marine by 778*l.*, principally owing to the upkeep of the launches and boats and the Harbour Master's salary having been transferred from No. 6 Treasury; Post Office by 138*l.*, arrears of former years; and Public Works Recurrent by 292*l.*, extra expenditure on waterworks, filter beds, the Botanic Station and the cleaning of streams. The following items show an apparent saving:—"Charges on account of Public Debt" 2,389*l.*, an unusual contribution of 3,744*l.* having been made to sinking fund account in 1894; Island Secretary 198*l.*—the 1894 Returns contained two years' salary of the Federal Accountant at 200*l.* per annum; Treasury 1,263*l.*, the upkeep of the steam launches and boats was transferred to No. 8 Port and Marine, so also was the salary of the Harbour Master. Savings were also effected under the following heads:—Police 125*l.*, Prison 148*l.*, Sanitary 211*l.*, Military 192*l.*, and Telephones 334*l.*, together with about 80*l.* on other items.

Montserrat.

The following items each show an increase:—Charges on account of Public Debt 688*l.*, mainly due to bad accounting in former years; Pensions 186*l.*, Sir Neale Porter 175*l.* (a new pension) and arrears of 1894; Federal Contribution 100*l.*, arrears of 1894; Hospitals 188*l.*, Education 177*l.*, Miscellaneous 198*l.*, Post Office 160*l.*, and Public Works Extraordinary 612*l.*, roads and bridges and plans for new Treasury, &c. There are several other small increases and a few savings.

Virgin Islands.

The following items each show an increase:—Commissioner 156*l.*, due to unusual savings in 1894 owing to acting appointments, Public Works Extraordinary 177*l.*, new revenue vessel built in 1895. There are also slight increases in other items and a few trivial savings.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The principal items which make up the saving of 3,367*l.* are: Prisons 294*l.*, Hospitals 764*l.*, Sanitary 341*l.*, Laboratory 103*l.*, Telephones 170*l.*, Miscellaneous 1,778*l.* (1,600*l.* was spent on the fibre industry in Anguilla in 1894); Public Works Recurrent (roads and buildings) 2,003*l.* and the Coast Guard Service (transferred from Police to Treasury) 833*l.* The initial cost of this latter service fell on 1894 and only the working cost on 1895. There were excesses under the following Heads:—Charges on account of Public Debt 468*l.*, interest on overdrafts 76*l.*, cost of issuing stock 44*l.*, arrears of 1894 348*l*; Pensions 178*l.*, several new pensions plus arrears of 1894; Commissioner 191*l.*, Commissioner at 600*l.* was replaced by an Administrator at 900*l.* during the year; Education 622*l.*, increased grant to primary schools and increased number of children at Skerretts and Scotts Hill Schools (Antigua); Post Office 247*l.*, contributions to West India Mail Service 194*l.* for December quarter 1894, brought to account in 1895, plus other arrears of 1894; and Public Works Extraordinary 1,166*l.*, spent on the new Treasury and other works. There are other excesses and a few savings, none of which are large, and none of which call for special remark.

Dominica.

The following items show an apparent saving:—Federal Contribution 277*l.*, owing to reduced expenditure under the general Government; Police 163*l.*; Prisons 103*l.*; Hospitals 302*l.*; Sanitary 111*l.*; Miscellaneous 446*l.*; Post Office 106*l.*; Telegraphs 400*l.*, the 1894 Return containing two years' subsidy; and Public Works Recurrent 269*l.*

There were excesses under charges on account of Public Debt, 739*l.*, being half-year's charges on a new loan of 30,000*l.*; Treasury, 688*l.*, an attempt having been made to establish a Coast Guard Service.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of the Colony, as compared with the expenditure, shows a total deficit of 46,263*l.*

Island.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Deficit.
	£	£	£
Antigua - - -	44,348	70,221	25,873
St. Kitts-Nevis - -	43,215	55,394	12,179
Dominica - - -	22,859	27,102	4,243
Montserrat - - -	7,125	10,702	3,577
Virgin Islands - - -	1,533	1,954	421
	119,080	165,373	46,293

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1895.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The funded debt of the Colony was increased by 30,000*l.* (Dominica), and reduced by 100*l.* (Montserrat). The sinking funds were increased during the year by 2,390*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*

POPULATION.

According to the Blue Book returns for 1894 the total population of the Colony was 127,723; the births in 1895, as shown by the following table, were 5,372, and the deaths 3,689, causing an increase of 1,683 for the year. The following table gives the births and deaths of each island:—

Island.	Births.	Deaths.	Increase.
Antigua - - -	1,509	1,236	273
Barbuda - - -	48	18	30
St. Kitts - - -	1,379	1,120	259
Nevis - - - -	625	430	195
Anguilla - - -	147	72	75
Dominica - - -	930	484	446
Montserrat - - -	532	228	304
Virgin Islands - - -	202	101	101
	5,372	3,689	1,683

It is not, however, possible to give correct returns of the population of the Colony since 1891, as there are no records kept of either emigration or immigration.

EDUCATION.

The rolls of the primary schools have again shown an increase although not equal to 1894. The increase during 1895 was 686, as against 1,310 in the previous year. The average attendances have risen from 12,069 in 1894 to 12,402 in 1895. These increases have been general in every Presidency, except in Dominica, where a decrease of 130 is shown.

The total amount received in school fees has decreased by 85*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*, the amount of the Government grants has increased by 450*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, while there is a slight decrease in the voluntary contributions.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The values of the total imports and exports of the Colony, exclusive of internal trade, were respectively 397,122*l.* and 270,399*l.*, as against 430,708*l.* and 439,548*l.*, in 1894. An examination of the following table shows that while the imports from the United Kingdom and British Colonies fell off by 35,445*l.*, the increase in the value of goods imported from the United States of America and other foreign countries was 1,859*l.*

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1895.

Value of Imports.

TABLE A.

Country from whence imported.	Value of Imports, 1894.	Value of Imports, 1895.	Increase in 1895.	Decrease in 1895.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	206,920	163,376	—	43,544
British Colonies - - -	47,951	56,050	8,099	—
United States - - -	161,594	162,191	597	—
Other Foreign countries - -	14,243	15,505	1,262	—
Total - - -	430,708	397,122	9,958	43,544

The comparison of the figures for these two years exhibits the fact that, while the imports from the United Kingdom have decreased by 43,544*l.*, the trade with British Colonies has increased by 8,099*l.*, while that with the United States has only slightly increased. In examining the following tables marked B. and C., in which the value and particulars of the principal articles of imports are shown, it will be observed that the decrease has been chiefly in such goods as are used by or on sugar plantations, and on further reference to the value of sugar exported by the Colony it will be at once seen that the decrease in trade is due solely to the purchasing power of estates having been diminished by the very small sugar crop reaped in 1895, in consequence of the phenomenal drought of the previous year, coupled with the unusually low prices realised in 1895.

TABLE B.

COMPARATIVE VALUE of the IMPORTS from the UNITED KINGDOM in 1894 and 1895.

Articles.	1894.	1895.	1895. Increase.	1895. Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Live animals - - -	170	78	—	92
Food stuffs - - -	18,302	14,126	—	4,176
Drinks - - - -	11,364	9,051	—	2,313
Narcotics - - -	363	501	138	—
Raw materials - - -	1,318	716	—	602
Manufactured textile articles -	108,747	78,168	—	30,579
" metal " -	26,134	16,146	—	9,988
Other imports - - -	40,522	43,647	3,125	—
Total - - -	206,920	162,433	3,263	47,750

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1895.

TABLE C.

RETURN showing the PRINCIPAL MANUFACTURES under which large differences appear.

Articles.	1894.	1895.	1895.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
Manufactured Textile Articles.	£	£	£	£
Cotton, woollens, &c. - -	66,728	53,886	—	12,842
Haberdashery and millinery -	41,665	24,045	—	17,620
Clothing and cloth - -	354	237	—	117
	108,747	78,168	—	30,579
Manufactured Metal Articles.				
Hardware, &c. - - -	17,031	12,762	—	4,269
Jewellery - - -	1,019	622	—	397
Sugar machinery - - -	7,067	2,682	—	4,385
Other machinery - -	457	71	—	386
Miscellaneous machinery -	560	9	—	551
	26,134	16,146	—	9,988
Other Imports.				
Decreased values of over 400*l.* appear in the following :—				
Boots and shoes - -	9,631	6,934	—	2,697
Bricks and tiles - -	539	460	—	79
Leather - - -	3,105	2,274	—	831
Lime - - -	806	658	—	148
Manure - - -	17,938	3,696	—	14,242
Packages - - -	3,555	2,206	—	1,349
Paints - - -	1,467	1,089	—	378
Rope - - -	1,508	1,485	—	23
Oil - - - -	1,018	1,073	55	—
Wood hoops - - -	1,243	1,330	87	—
Soap - - -	3,640	2,250	—	1,390
Furniture - - -	779	425	—	354
	45,229	23,880	142	21,491

The difference under this head between the Tables B. and C. is consequent upon the value of other importations having been somewhat increased. Trade has, however, in no way been diverted from the United Kingdom to other places, but the decrease in the value of imports is, as I have already remarked, due entirely to the general depression of business through the low price of the staple industries of the Colony.

From the comparative return in Table D., giving the values of the principal articles of imports from the United States of America, it will be seen that under food stuffs there is an increase in 1895 in the value of wheaten flour to the extent of 8,467*l.*, while the trade in lumber has decreased by 6,222*l.*, oilmeal shows a decreased consumption of 2,713*l.*, and shooks used by estates has decreased by 2,162*l.*

TABLE D.

COMPARATIVE RETURNS of the VALUE of the PRINCIPAL ARTICLES imported from the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

—	1894.	1895.	1895.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Flour, wheaten - -	65,508	57,041	—	8,467
Corn meal - - -	12,377	10,020	—	2,357
Corn - - - -	10,779	8,637	—	2,142
Oleomargarine - -	3,532	4,353	821	—
Pork - - - -	17,231	17,107		124
Lumber - - -	14,186	7,964	—	6,222
Oilmeal and cake -	8,953	6,240	—	2,713
Shooks - - -	4,319	2,157	—	2,162
Total - -	136,885	113,519	821	24,187

Or a net decrease of 23,366*l.* on the year.

EXPORTS.

By way of illustrating the effect that the low prices of our staple products had on the several Presidencies, I give in the following table a statement of the quantity and value of the principal articles of export during 1894 and 1895.

From these figures it will be noticed that, although there was but a difference of 4,567 tons between the exports of sugar in 1894 and 1895, the value was reduced by 172,148*l.*, or rather under one-half. Owing to a better crop, the exports of limes and lime-juice were increased in value in 1895 by 7,315*l.*, or over one-third. With regard to lime-juice the figures are sometimes misleading, as this product is often shipped from Montserrat about the end of the year, so that a ship may clear early in January and the crop is credited to the following year, and it may happen that next year's crop is cleared in December, so that two crops may go into one year, while some years may have none.

TABLE E.

Articles.	1894.		1895.	
	Exports.	Value.	Exports.	Value.
		£		£
Sugar, tons - - - -	32,155	345,800	27,588	173,652
Molasses, puns. of 100 galls. -	10,690	30,101	8,436	23,290
Rum, galls. - - -	42,864	1,724	62,395	2,788
Cocoa, lbs. - - -	635,478	8,655	617,836	8,444
Limes and lime-juice - -	—	12,284	—	19,599
Total - - -	—	398,564	—	227,773

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1895.

In addition to the above five principal articles of export, the Colony also shipped, exclusive of internal trade, the following minor products, of the following values :—

	£
Animals - - - - -	2,973
Fruit and vegetables - - -	3,055
Salt - - - - -	1,381
Starches - - - - -	474
Bay leaves - - - -	2,979
Charcoal and firewood - - -	1,177
Dye woods - - - -	12,223
Hides and skins - - - -	673
Essential oils and essences - - -	3,325

The internal trade of the Colony also represented a value of 11,293*l.*; and of other exports, which may be regarded as being reshipments of imports, the value was 49,079*l.*

The increase on amount of dye woods was due to the discovery of a large quantity of mature logwood in the bush lands of Antigua. This discovery being made when there was a brisk demand for logwood led to a large business being done.

Slightly over one-half of our trade was, as usual, with the United States of America. The neighbouring French Colonies received to the value of 10,842*l.*, of which molasses for the manufacture of spirits represented 732*l.*

The following table gives a comparative return of the values of the total exports for 1894 and 1895 :—

—	1894.		Total.	1895.		Total.
	Produce of Colony.	Other Exports.		Produce of Colony.	Other Exports.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	30,613	2,066	32,679	47,432	1,276	48,708
British North America - -	61,245	120	61,365	52,165	176	52,341
Other British Colonies - -	2,185	11,446	13,631	2,928	751	3,679
	94,043	13,632	107,675	102,525	2,203	104,728
United States of America -	305,023	725	305,748	141,855	971	142,826
Other Foreign Colonies - -	15,248	10,877	26,125	13,275	6,992	20,267
	414,314	25,234	439,548	257,655	10,166	267,821
Internal Trade - - -	10,710	14,671	25,381	9,040	11,293	20,333
Total - - -	425,024	39,905	464,929	266,695	21,459	288,154

Within the past two or three years the trade in Muscovado sugar with British North America is being steadily pushed forward by the commercial agents of that country ; in 1893 the exports of this article were only 2,020 tons, while the shipments this year have risen to 4,139 as compared with 4,000 in 1894.

SHIPPING.

In the accompanying tables I give the particulars of the entries and clearances of shipping in the Colony during the years 1894 and 1895:—

Entered 1894.

British or Foreign.	Steam or Sailing.	Tonnage entered.
British - - -	Steam - - -	869,881
" - - -	Sailing - - -	44,679
Foreign - - -	Steam - - -	1,007
" - - -	Sailing - - -	25,585
		941,152

Cleared 1894.

British or Foreign.	Steam or Sailing.	Tonnage cleared.
British - - -	Steam - - -	870,141
" - - -	Sailing - - -	44,665
Foreign - - -	Steam - - -	1,007
" - - -	Sailing - - -	25,718
		941,531

Entered 1895.

British or Foreign.	Steam or Sailing.	Tonnage entered.
British - - -	Steam - - -	797,816
" - - -	Sailing - - -	37,548
Foreign - - -	Steam - - -	3,937
" - - -	Sailing - - -	23,930
		863,231

Cleared 1895.

British or Foreign.	Steam or Sailing.	Tonnage cleared.
British - - -	Steam - - -	797,816
" - - -	Sailing - - -	37,238
Foreign - - -	Steam - - -	3,937
" - - -	Sailing - - -	23,847
		862,838

The direction of the trade during 1895 was as follows:—

1895.

Tonnage entered from	Steam.	Sailing.	Total.
United Kingdom - -	—	2,130	2,130
British Colonies - - -	14,259	15,204	29,463
United States - - -	6,710	4,384	11,094
Foreign Ports - - -	283,356	21,798	305,334
Internal trade - - -	497,428	17,782	515,210
Total - - -	801,753	61,478	863,231

1895.

Tonnage cleared for	Steam.	Sailing.	Total.
United Kingdom - -	2,322	3,289	5,611
British Colonies - - -	32,324	8,928	41,252
United States - - -	4,300	4,760	9,060
Foreign Ports - - -	310,888	28,193	337,081
Internal trade - - -	451,919	17,915	469,834
Total - - -	801,753	61,085	862,838

It is necessary to explain with respect to the above return that steam vessels arriving from the United States of America invariably call at one or other of the neighbouring foreign islands before arriving at any of the islands of this Colony, and that vessels so arriving are entered as from the last port; these vessels in like manner usually clear for either St. Thomas or St. Croix on their homeward voyage to America.

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1895.

GRANTS OF LAND.

Antigua.

The Crown lands in Antigua are as follows :—

Piccadilly, Savannah, and Red Hill	2,200 acres
The Ridge Lands	300 „

(These are situated by English Harbour in the parish of St. Paul's.)

Wallings	416 acres
Sawcolts	280 „

(These are situated in the hills on the south of the Island and as they form the watersheds from which the supply of water for the town is drawn should be afforested.)

Skerretts 600 acres. This is used by the reformatory and stock farm. The hills here on the north should be afforested, which work could well be done by the boys.

The pasture to the east of the town from East Street to a line running north and south from the Parham road to Ottos boundary along the east fence of the hospital, including the lands used by the hospital, gaol, cricket-field, and park. These I believe to be Crown lands proper, Act No. 27 dated 1771.

Queen's pasture 180 acres; a portion of land from Body Ponds to Constitution Hill near All Saints. This is land acquired under Act No. 10 and reverted under section 5.

Lands at Fort James, 25 acres under Act No. 18.

The Tennis grounds, Act No. 97.

The old Holberton hospital lands, Acts No. 67, 126, 129.

Lands of Colonial Secretary's office, Act No. 159.

There are also lands around the various forts all round the island.

The only portions of the lands which are rented are portions of the Piccadilly Estate, rented out in ½-acre lots, but the persons renting these are very poor and there is great difficulty in collecting even the 5*s.* per half-year.

The whole island of Barbuda, 89,949 acres. This, with the exception of the village and certain lands for use of the villagers, is leased to the Barbuda Island Company.

The whole island of Redonda. This is leased to a company in England for the extraction and shipment of phosphates.

St. Kitts.

No reliable information as to Crown lands.

Nevis.

No reliable information.

Anguilla.

There is an estate here purchased by the late Governor, Sir W. F. Haynes-Smith, for the Government to grow sisal.

Virgin Islands.

No reliable information as to Crown lands in these Islands.

Montserrat.

None.

Dominica.

Here there are large tracts of Crown lands, the sale of which, if they were more accessible, would be a source of revenue; but from the want of roads they are difficult of access, so that only small purchasers buy them.

PRISONERS AND GAOLS.

The returns for the year show that the total number of prisoners received in the gaols of the Colony was - - - -	2,023
Of these the committals for non-payment of fines were - - - - -	1,533
For peremptory imprisonment - - -	363
For debt on judgment summons - -	6
For conviction by Supreme Courts - -	44
For safe custody - - - -	77
	2,023

1,265 of these committed were males, 734 females, and 24 juveniles.

On comparing the returns shown by the following two tables it will be observed that there was a marked increase in the number committed for non-payment of fines. An increase appears indeed under each head.

—	Nature of the Imprisonment.					
	By Superior Courts.	Peremptory Imprisonment.	For Non-payment of Fines.	One previous Conviction.	Two previous Convictions.	Three or more previous Convictions.
1894 - - -	33	361	1,326	277	155	390
1895 - -	44	363	1,533	372	172	432
Increase in 1895 -	11	2	207	95	17	42
Decrease in 1895 -	—	—	—	—	—	—

TERM of IMPRISONMENT.

—	Five Years or more.	One Year or more, less than Five.	More than Three Months and under One Year.	For Three Months or less.
1894 - - -	3	25	80	1,612
1895 - - -	6	22	65	1,845
Increase in 1895 -	3	—	—	233
Decrease in 1895 -	—	3	15	—

With the increased number in the prison the admissions to hospital show an increase from 71 to 87, but the returns show that the daily average on the sick list was 3·22 below 1894, while the deaths in gaol were 2 against 1 in the previous year. The daily average in prison was 165.

The following table classifies the offences which were brought before the courts in the various Presidencies of the Colony:—

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1895.

Island.	Year.	Total No. of Offences.	Assaults and other Offences against the Person.	Malicious Injury to Property.	Prædial Larceny by Boys under 16.	Against Property other than malicious Injury and Prædial Larceny.	Against Revenue, Highway, Health, and Acts relating to Social Economy.	Against Master and Servants Acts.	Other Offences.
Antigua - -	1894	2,013	537	15	135	121	196	214	795
	1895	1,854	536	12	229	164	193	118	602
St. Kitts-Nevis -	1894	3,595	584	24	172	570	87	58	2,100
	1895	2,585	448	17	141	459	392	50	1,078
Dominica - -	1894	2,457	174	29	119	99	1,632	12	392
	1895	2,540	125	11	138	179	1,780	6	301
Montserrat - -	1894	467	98	3	40	78	44	17	187
	1895	404	96	3	26	37	26	3	213
Virgin Islands -	1894	50	19	1	2	4	6	—	18
	1895	45	15	—	1	7	2	—	20

The total number of cases dealt with in the magistrates' courts during the year was 17,646; of these 6,139 were discharged for want of prosecution or evidence, 3,743 were dismissed, there were 7,428 summary convictions, 78 committals to the superior courts, and 277 remained untried in the magistrates' courts.

Legislation.

Only one Act of the General Legislature became law during the year 1895, namely, a formal Act substituting the title of Administrator for those of President and Commissioner in the Presidencies of Saint Christopher-Nevis and Dominica. This Act was passed on the 30th May at a special session held for the purpose. Another session of the Council was held on the 12th December and following days, when various other Bills were passed. These Bills did not, however, become law until after the close of the year, and do not therefore appear as Acts of 1895.

In Antigua, a Smuggling Act, Acts to provide for the improvement of the City of St. John, to render compulsory the notification of infectious diseases, and to provide for the raising of a loan of 20,000*l.* by the issue of Treasury debentures, were the principal measures passed during the year.

In St. Kitts-Nevis, in view of the distress caused by the depression in trade, an Ordinance was passed suspending the collection, during the year 1895, of the land tax, the parochial tax, the statistical tax, and the water tax, and granting to general revenue, to make up the deficit thus caused, the amount standing in the Treasury Books for some years past to the credit of a special Immigration Fund.

In Dominica the most important Act passed was one to amend the Constitution Acts by providing that the Legislative Assembly shall consist of seven nominated members, of whom three shall be officials and four unofficials, and seven elected members, and of the Attorney-General, who shall be a member *ex officio;* provided that when the latter officer shall be present, only two other official members shall sit.

The Excise and Liquor License laws were also amended.

In Montserrat an Ordinance providing for the raising of a loan of 5,000*l* by the issue of Treasury debentures was passed.

Hospitals and Asylums.

On the 1st January 1895, the number of persons in the hospitals of the Colony, exclusive of those in the Yaws Hospital in Dominica, was 409, and the admissions during the year were 2,898, so that the cases treated numbered 3,307. Of these 1,314 were discharged as being cured, and 1,165 as relieved, and the deaths were 448.

The following table gives the particulars relating to each hospital in the Colony:—

Hospital.	In the Hospital on 1st Jan. 1895.	Admissions.	Discharged as cured.	Discharged as relieved.	Deaths.
Antigua - - -	116	1,328	223	839	251
S.K. Cunningham -	168	918	634	185	101
„ Pogson - -	31	299	173	61	34
Nevis - - - -	32	83	43	18	29
Dominica - -	25	291	208	53	41
Montserrat - - -	62	56	33	4	13
Virgin Islands - -	15	12	—	5	4
Total - - -	449	2,987	1,314	1,165	448

On comparing the above figures with the returns of the previous year, it will be observed that the number of cases treated during the year were 12 less; the per-centages of those discharged as cured in 1894 and 1895 were respectively 41·6 and 49·4,

Yaws Hospital.

The returns relating to the Yaws Hospital in Dominica show that there were 78 cases treated in 1895, as against 127 in the previous year, and that the number cured was 54 as against 105. This hospital has since been closed.

Lunatic Asylums.

At the Rat Island Asylum 32 patients were admitted, as against 42 in 1894; 17 were discharged as cured or relieved, against 22 in the previous year, and the deaths were, in 1895, 12, against 16 in 1894. The staff of resident servants was increased in 1894 by 11; much improvement has also be made with respect to the general treatment of lunatics by the institution being provided with the services of a warder and nurse who had been trained in a European asylum.

At the Ridge the admissions were 12, the discharges as cured 4, and the deaths 3, the daily average being the same as last year in this asylum, which is occupied by such lunatics as are either non-violent or show signs of being cured. The building is situated at a good elevation, and is on the site of the barracks formerly used by European troops. It is under the immediate supervision of the district medical officer, who daily visits the institution.

Leper Asylums,

The asylum in Antigua, which may be regarded more as a home for such lepers as are very poor or have no relatives able or willing to support them, is conducted on a very primitive and inexpensive plan, and is limited as to accommodation; the admissions during the year were 6, and the deaths 4.

In the St. Kitts Asylum the admissions during 1895 were 5; and the number of deaths was the same, one of the deaths being that of a child born in the Asylum.

Savings Banks.

The returns for 1895 show that the deposits during the year were 23,691*l.*, and the withdrawals 23,784*l.*, and that the amount of deposits and investments were respectively decreased by 321*l.* and 1,066*l.* The number of depositors decreased in the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Montserrat by 2,236, and increased in Dominica by 17, leaving a net decrease for the Colony of 2,219.

POST OFFICES AND TELEPHONES.

Post Offices.

The improvements made in recent years in postal arrangements, together with the advancement of education in primary schools, are being evinced by the annually increasing number of letters and papers which pass through the post offices of the Colony; a comparison of the figures for the two years shows the increase to have been as shown by the following table:—

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1895.

1894.

—	Letters and Cards.		Papers and Books.		Parcel Post.		Total.	
	Received from	Despatched to	Received from	Despatched to	Received from	Despatched to	Received from	Despatched to
United Kingdom - - -	51,878	45,869	89,134	10,520	4,390	806	145,402	57,195
United States - - - -	20,437	17,245	23,519	2,079	190	54	52,146	19,378
Other places - - - -	139,961	135,276	27,891	23,433	854	423	168,706	159,132
Total - - - -	220,276	198,390	140,544	36,032	5,434	1,283	366,254	235,705

1895.

—	Letters and Cards.		Papers and Books.		Parcel Post.		Total.	
	Received from	Despatched to	Received from	Despatched to	Received from	Despatched to	Received from	Despatched to
United Kingdom - - -	49,467	46,183	76,685	9,737	4,105	733	130,257	56,653
United States - - - -	26,858	16,157	25,076	2,303	159	53	52,093	18,513
Other places - - - -	146,866	140,555	36,995	22,577	789	329	184,650	163,461
Total - - - -	223,191	202,895	138,756	34,617	5,053	1,115	367,000	238,627

Telephones.

In 1895 the supervision of the system in Antigua was transferred to a telephone Board. This resulted in increased efficiency and decreased expenditure. The expenditure in Antigua was as follows:—

1893.	1894.	1895.
£ 1,113	£ 1,466	£ 1,134

The expenditure in 1895, however, includes a sum of 352*l.* for supplies obtained in 1893 and 1894 and properly chargeable to these years.

——	Instruments in Use.	Miles of Wire.	No. of Calls.
Antigua 1894 - -	144	345	205,364
„ 1895 - -	158	280	248,577
Increase - -	14	--	43,213
Decrease -	—	65	—

GENERAL REMARKS.

A most marked falling off in the trade of the Colony is again to be noted this year, the total value of exports and imports being 213,199*l.* less than in 1894, a year in which there was a great deficiency.

Several causes led to this result, but the chief two were undoubtedly the excessive drought experienced throughout the Colony, but with most severe effect in Antigua in 1894, leading to a disastrously small sugar crop in 1895. At the same time that the crops were so small, prices were unusually low. It is probable that sugar has never realised lower prices for a prolonged period than it did during this year; and as over 80 per cent. of the export trade of the Leeward Islands consists of sugar and sugar products, it will be seen how wide-reaching must have been the effects of the sugar depression. In 1894 there was a considerable fall in the value of sugar and molasses exported, but in 1895 there was a further fall of 108,113*l.* when compared with 1894.

This fall in the value of exports naturally led to a corresponding decline in imports; no new machinery was imported and the importation of artificial manures was much restricted. On the sugar estates every possible economy was practised and the expenditure was limited to mere cultivation and manufacture only.

The discovery in Antigua of a quantity of mature logwood resulted in shipments to the value of 12,225*l.*, and this did much to relieve the distress of the peasantry, who were largely employed in the industry.

The harbour works made satisfactory progress; the channel was cut through the bar, and the dredging of the inner channel and basin proceeded with.

In the months of September and October in particular, Antigua suffered much from the loss of an unusual number of prominent inhabitants, most of whom fell victims to an outbreak of fever during these months.

More attention has since been paid to sanitary matters, especially in the city of St. John, and improvements have been effected, but very much more remains to be done, and it is hoped that progress will be steadily maintained.

Governor Sir W. F. Haynes Smith left the Colony on the 6th March, and was succeeded by Governor Sir Francis Fleming on the 27th of the same month.

GEO. MELVILLE,
Colonial Secretary.

Antigua,
8th April 1897.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 227.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 200.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
April, 1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
196	Malta	1896
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	"
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	"
203	Fiji (Trade)	"
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	"
207	British Honduras	"
208	Sierra Leone	"
209	Grenada	"
210	Hong Kong	"
211	St. Lucia	"
212	St. Vincent	"
213	St. Helena	"
214	Seychelles	"
215	Mauritius	"
216	Cocos–Keeling and Christmas Islands	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	"
219	Lagos	"
220	Gold Coast	"
221	Labuan	"
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.

No. 227.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1896.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 200.)

Governor Sir F. Fleming to Mr. Chamberlain.

Springfield House,
St. Kitts,
28th February 1898.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit the Report on the Blue Book of the Leeward Islands for 1896 which has been prepared by the Acting Colonial Secretary.

2. The Revenue of the Colony during the year in question amounted to £138,660, being £19,578 in excess of that for the year 1895, but, notwithstanding this fact, it was insufficient to meet the expenditure, which amounted to £149,437.

3. It is satisfactory, however, to find, when comparing this expenditure with that of 1895, that there was a net decrease of £15,937.

4. When I assumed the administration of this Government in March 1895 the financial condition of the Colony appeared to be deserving of serious attention, and I felt it my duty to bring to the notice of the Secretary of State what I considered to be the unsatisfactory state of the Finances in the different Presidencies, while endeavouring to do all in my power to curtail expenditure as much as possible.

6. It was considered advisable that an officer of the Colonial Department should proceed to the Colony to investigate and report upon its financial position, and Mr. Olivier was consequently appointed Auditor-General, and assumed that office in the autumn of 1895.

7. Mr. Olivier went very carefully into all matters involving Revenue and Expenditure, and on his departure in 1896 certain Financial Instructions were issued, the effect of which has been to check expenditure and to prevent the disbursements of public moneys otherwise than in strict conformity with regulations laid down.

8. But whatever means are had recourse to in this direction, it is difficult to see how the islands forming this Colony can continue to incur the cost which seems essential for their proper and efficient government unless something be done to improve the value of their staple article and enable sugar to be manufactured in such quantities and of such quality as will cause it to compete fairly with the sugars of other countries.

9. No one at the present day can expect that sugar will fetch again the prices it has fetched in the past, but the possession of such machinery as would enable a better quality and a larger quantity to be produced in these islands, or a less waste of raw material to be incurred, would enable the planters to compete with other sugar-producing countries on more favourable conditions than they are able to do at the present time.

10. It should, however, be borne in mind, apart from the granting of bounties, which necessarily result in the greatest possible detriment to the sugar growers of the West Indies, that the cultivation of sugar is likely to increase.

11. While I therefore sympathise with the planters of this Colony in the difficulties they have to encounter and the hardships inflicted on them by the bounty system, I would at the same time urge upon them the necessity of doing whatever is in their power to provide for the time when, even apart from the giving of bounties, the price of sugar may be less even than it is to-day.

12. I am fully aware that Antigua and St. Kitts are peculiarly well adapted for the growth of sugar, perhaps more so than any other country in the world. The soils of these islands are rich, labour is cheap, and the frequent droughts with which Antigua is visited affect the sugar cane to a less degree than any other product.

13. In the month of February 1896 very serious disturbances took place in St. Kitts, which arose from some dispute about wages between the employer and employed.

The town of Basseterre, the capital of the island, was attacked by the rioters, who broke into the stores, set fire to the houses, &c.

H.M.S. "Cordelia," which was fortunately at Antigua at the time, proceeded to St. Kitts, and, with the assistance of her officers and men, the disturbances were quelled, although a very uneasy feeling existed in the island for some months subsequently.

14. In November of the same year serious floods took place in the Island of Montserrat, causing a considerable destruction of property and some loss of life.

Through the generous aid of the neighbouring Colonies, more especially Trinidad, and the timely intervention of the Lord Mayor of London, who kindly opened a subscription list for the sufferers, a sufficient amount was collected to afford such relief as was necessary.

15. It is worthy of remark that from the time these floods took place Montserrat has suffered from continued shocks of earthquakes of more or less severity.

16. In a report I received from the Commissioner of that Presidency, Mr. Baynes mentions that on the 15th of this month several shocks of earthquake occurred in the island, which have since been followed by shocks, more or less severe, causing considerable damage to buildings, although no loss of life has been mentioned.

The Commissioner draws attention to the fact that these shocks have been of frequent occurrence since the floods of 1896, and that of late their severity has greatly increased. Mr. Baynes adds that the subject is one of peculiar interest and seems to be well deserving of scientific investigation.

17. During 1896 the health of the Colony was satisfactory, and there was no recurrence of the fever which visited Antigua in the autumn of 1895.

I have, &c.,
F. FLEMING.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1896.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Leeward Islands.

REVENUE.

The aggregate amount of the Revenue collected by the several Presidencies of the Colony during the year was £138,660, which, compared with the revenue of the preceding year, viz.: £119,082, shews an increase of £19,578.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1896.

The following comparative Return gives the Revenue collected in the respective Presidencies during the years 1895 and 1896, with the increase or decrease occurring in each Presidency :—

Presidency.	1895.	1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Antigua	44,348	54,951	10,603	—
St. Kitts-Nevis	43,215	49,561	6,346	—
Dominica	22,860	24,904	2,044	—
Montserrat	7,125	7,775	650	—
Virgin Islands	1,534	1,469	—	65
Total	£119,082	£138,660	£19,643	£65

Net Increase £19,578.

The Blue Book Return D 2 affords information, as regards each Presidency, with respect to the heads of Revenue under which there occurred either an increase or decrease between the years cited above.

EXPENDITURE.

The aggregate Expenditure of the Colony for the year under review was £149,437, as compared with £165,374 for 1895, shewing a reduction of Expenditure for the later period of £15,937.

The subjoined comparative Return shews the Expenditure of the respective Presidencies during the years 1895 and 1896, with the increase or decrease in each Presidency :—

Presidency.	1895.	1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Antigua	70,221	57,345	—	12,876
St. Kitts-Nevis	55,395	56,501	1,106	—
Dominica	27,102	25,189	—	1,913
Montserrat	10,702	8,732	—	1,970
Virgin Islands	1,954	1,670	—	284
Total	£165,374	£149,437	£1,106	£17,043

Net Decrease £15,937.

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1896.

The Blue Book Return D 3 gives the respective heads of Expenditure with regard to each Presidency, under which there resulted either an increase or decrease in comparing one year with the other.

The following comparative Return of the Revenue collected and the Expenditure incurred by the several Presidencies of the Colony during the year under review shews a gross excess of Expenditure over Revenue amounting to £10,777 :—

Presidency.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Excess.
	£	£	£
Antigua	54,951	57,345	2,394
St. Kitts-Nevis	49,561	56,501	6,940
Dominica	24,904	25,189	285
Montserrat	7,775	8,732	957
Virgin Islands	1,469	1,670	201
Total	£138,660	£149,437	£10,777

In comparing the expenditure of the Colony for 1896 (£149,437) with that for 1895 (£165,374), it will be observed that a considerable reduction was effected in the later period, and, although the Revenue for 1896 increased considerably as compared with that realised in 1895, namely, to the extent of £19,578, it nevertheless proved inadequate to meet the year's expenditure in any of the Presidencies.

Antigua and Montserrat were placed in funds by means of advances which were procured by the Crown Agents on the credit of Treasury Debentures of those Presidencies.

This was also the case with respect to St. Kitts-Nevis, though not to the full extent of the excess shewn, as the Presidency, at the close of the year, had in addition to the advances made, overdrawn its account with the Crown Agents by more than £1,600.

To meet its Expenditure in excess of Revenue, Dominica had recourse, as a temporary measure, to the unexpended balance of the Imperial Grant.

The Presidency of the Virgin Islands overdrew its account with the Crown Agents.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony on 31st December 1896, secured on the General Revenues—without taking into account Sinking Fund investments to provide for the eventual redemption of Loans—stood at £301,221. The distribution of this amount is set forth in the following Statement, which also shews the amounts at the credit of Sinking Funds :—

Presidency.	Debt.	To Credit of Sinking Funds.
	£	£
Antigua	137,871	13,758
St. Kitts-Nevis	74,450	3,163
Dominica	70,900	7,911
Montserrat	18,000	412
Total	£301,221	£25,244

POPULATION.

During the year 5,219 births, 601 marriages and 3,404 deaths were registered. The last Census for the Colony was taken on the 5th of April 1891, when the population was 127,723. Between that date and the 31st of December 1896 the increase may be stated, approximately, at 8,311, which would bring the population at the close of the year up to 136,034. In the absence, however, of statistics dealing with Emigration and Immigration it is not possible to determine with any degree of accuracy what the probable number of inhabitants in the Colony may be at any given period.

The following Statement gives, approximately, the Population at the close of the year, with the number of Births, Deaths and Marriages registered in each Island during the year :—

Island.	Births.	Deaths.	Increase.	Population on Dec. 31st, 1896.	Marriages.
Antigua ...	1,399	1,069	330	36,995	198
Barbuda ...	42	27	15	669	1
St. Kitts ...	1,311	1,084	227	32,317	161
Nevis ...	686	386	300	14,322	88
Anguilla ...	145	54	91	4,082	15
Dominica	930	484	446	29,182	71
Montserrat ...	539	217	322	13,268	53
Virgin Islands ...	167	83	84	5,199	14
Total ...	5,219	3,404	1,815	136,034	601

LEGISLATION.

The General Legislative Council met at Antigua on the 10th December 1896, the Session continuing until the 21st December. Fifteen Acts were passed, the more important of which are:—

Act 1 of 1896—"An Act for the Construction and Abbreviation "of Laws," known as "The Interpretation of Laws Act 1896."

Act 4 of 1896—"An Act to provide for a Recognition in the "Colony of Probates and Letters of Administration granted in "the United Kingdom."

Act 5 of 1896—"An Act to incorporate a Mutual Fire "Assurance Society for the Leeward Islands."

Act 9 of 1896—"An Act to provide against the Importation "of Articles likely to introduce Disease among Plants."

The Local Councils of the several Presidencies held frequent sittings during the year. Twenty Acts were passed by the Legislature of Antigua, all of which came into force. Twenty-one Ordinances were passed by the St. Kitts-Nevis Legislature, one of which was disallowed, namely, "An Ordinance to provide "for the Enrolment of Auxiliary Police Constables."

Dominica passed seven Acts, Montserrat ten Ordinances and the Virgin Islands three. All the measures passed in the three Presidencies last mentioned were allowed and became law.

The Acts and Ordinances passed in the several Presidencies do not call for special mention.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Mr. L. J. Bertram was appointed on the 1st of February 1896 as Auditor-General of the Colony.

Mr. James Burnes, Treasurer of St. Kitts-Nevis, died on the 28th of December 1896, and Mr. E. O. Johnson was appointed, provisionally, to act as Treasurer.

Dr. Cookman was appointed in August to be Commissioner and Medical Officer of the Virgin Islands.

EDUCATION.

There has been an increase in the number attending Primary Schools (though to a less extent than in preceding years), the aggregate number appearing on the Registers of the several Presidencies for 1896 being 25,439, as compared with 25,120 for 1895, shewing an increase of 319. The average attendance increased from 12,402 in 1895 to 12,894 in the year under review. The School Fees, Government Grants, and Voluntary Contributions, taken together, amounted in 1896 to £8,640 10*s*. 6*d*., while the total sum realized in 1895 from the sources named amounted to £8,403 18*s*. 6*d*.

Leeward Islands.
1896.

HOSPITALS.

The subjoined tabulated Statements afford particulars of the number of persons undergoing treatment during the year in the several Hospitals and the Lunatic and Leper Asylums of the Colony, also the number of discharges from and deaths occurring in the respective Institutions.

HOSPITALS.

Hospital.	In Hospital on 1st January 1896.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not Improved.	
Antigua	131	1,468	343	882	—	239
Cunningham,St.Kitts	116	1,002	712	143	43	96
Pogson, ditto ...	28	279	162	79	6	37
Nevis	26	77	38	20	2	22
Roseau, Dominica ...	29	305	239	34	6	20
Do. Yaws, ditto ...	22	26	28	—	—	—
Château, Montserrat	67	72	41	12	5	11
Montserrat	3	20	12	3	1	1
Virgin Islands ...	19	5	—	8	—	4

LUNATIC ASYLUMS, ANTIGUA.

Asylum.	In Asylum on 1st January 1896.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not Improved.	
Rat Island	48	35	18	8	—	3
Ridge	32	8	5	—	—	3

LEPER ASYLUMS.

Asylum.	In Asylum on 1st January 1896.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not Improved.	
Antigua	29	6	—	—	1	2
St. Kitts	71	2	—	15	—	8

SAVINGS BANKS.

Savings Banks are established in Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica and Montserrat. The aggregate amount paid in by Depositors during the year was £22,817 10*s*. 5*d*., while the total amount withdrawn from the Banks was £27,111 1*s*. 2*d*. The lodgments were less than in the preceding year by £873 13*s*. 9*d*. and the total sum withdrawn exceeded the withdrawals of the previous year by £3,362 7*s*. 0*d*.

The amounts at credit of Depositors on 31st December 1896, in the under-mentioned Savings Banks, were—

	£	*s*.	*d*.
Antigua	37,940	11	0
St. Kitts	7,536	19	3
Nevis	3,034	0	3
Dominica	4,772	11	9½
Montserrat	2,592	15	6
Total...	£55,876	17	9½

POST OFFICE.

The transactions of the Post Office Department shew an increase as compared with those of the previous year. The Receipts from Letters, Post Cards, Newspapers, Books and Parcels exceeded the amount realized from this source of Revenue in 1895, while the Expenditure incurred for 1896 in the working of the Department was much reduced.

The following Statement gives the Revenue collected and Expenditure incurred, with the resulting deficit, in each of the years treated of. In connection with the recorded deficit in the working of the Postal Service of the Colony, consideration should be given to the fact of the free conveyance of all Official Mail matter through the Post. If such were prepaid and the Department allowed credit therefor, the apparent deficit, occurring annually, would probably cease to appear and a surplus be the result. Such an arrangement would ensure to the Department the full benefit derivable by way of postal receipts from the sale of Stamps, for work done in the direction indicated.

Revenue.			Expenditure.			Deficit.	
1895.	1896.	Increase.	1895.	1896.	Decrease.	1895.	1896.
£ *s*. *d*.	£ *s*. *d*.	£ *s*. *d*.	£ *s*. *d*.	£ *s*. *d*.	£ *s*. *d*.	£ *s*. *d*.	£ *s*. *d*.
3,676 0 3½	4,033 3 11½	357 3 8	5,459 8 5½	4,948 15 7½	510 12 10	1,783 2 0	914 11 8

Inland Post letters and other articles dealt with numbered 240,758, as against 236,884 in the previous year.

Particulars of the Foreign Mail matter dealt with are given in the following statements :—

Articles.	Received.		Despatched.	
	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.
Letters and Cards	223,191	215,429	202,895	253,669
Papers and Books	138,756	124,749	34,617	29,051
Parcels Post	5,053	4,924	1,115	1,012
Total	367,000	345,102	238,627	283,732

Articles Received and Sent.	United Kingdom.		United States.		Other Countries.		Totals.	
	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.
Letters and Cards.. ..	95,650	157,928	43,015	47,310	287,421	263,860	426,086	469,098
Papers and Books.. ..	86,422	84,283	27,379	27,357	59,572	42,160	173,373	153,800
Parcels Post..	4,838	4,519	212	220	1,118	1,197	6,168	5,936
Total	186,910	246,730	70,606	74,887	348,111	307,217	605,627	628,834

IMPORTS.

The year's Importations, as compared with the value of the Imports for the preceding year, increased to the extent of £5,076. The following Comparative Return shews the distribution and total value of Imports during 1895 and 1896, respectively:—

Country whence imported.	Value of Imports.		1896.	
	1895.	1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£		£	£
United Kingdom	163,376	178,917	15,541	—
British Colonies	56,050	57,949	1,899	—
United States of America ...	162,191	149,982	—	12,209
Other Foreign Countries ...	15,505	15,350	—	155
Total	£397,122	£402,198	£17,440	£12,364

Net Increase £5,076.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1896.

The trade between the several islands comprising the Colony resulted in the importation of goods &c. into all the Presidencies aggregating in value the sum of £14,095 : the like imports in the previous year amounted to £18,868, shewing a falling off in the trade referred to of £4,773.

The figures supplied in the above statement reveal the fact that there occurred in 1896 an increase of trade—so far as importations are concerned—with the United Kingdom, and, to a less degree, with British Colonies. There was, however, a falling off in the trade with the United States of America, and imports from other foreign countries were slightly below the value of the previous year's importations.

The advance in the year's importations from the United Kingdom, as compared with 1895, is mainly accounted for by a larger trade in manufactured textile articles and other manufactured articles having taken place. The value of raw materials was also somewhat in excess of the previous year's importations.

The decrease in the value of articles procured from the United States of America was solely due to a reduction in the quantity of food supplies imported from that country.

The aggregate values of the Imports for the years 1895 and 1896 are classified in the following statement :—

Articles.	1895.	1896.	1896.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Live Animals	2,189	2,649	460	—
Food	170,931	158,378	—	12,553
Drinks	16,550	13,993	—	2,557
Narcotics	3,661	3,792	131	—
Raw Materials	14,063	16,953	2,890	—
Manufactured Articles :—				
Textile	82,457	91,376	8,919	—
Metal	19,712	20,873	1,161	—
Other Manufactures ...	87,559	92,684	5,125	—
	397,122	400,698	18,686	15,110
Coin and Bullion	—	1,500	1,500	—
Total	£397,122	£402,198	£20,186	£15,110

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1896.

EXPORTS.

The total value of the Exports (exclusive of the trade between the Islands comprising the Colony) amounted to £316,510 as compared with £267,822 for the preceding year, the result being an increase in the value of the Exportations for the year of report to the extent of £48,688.

The following classified Statement shews the distribution of the Exports for the years specified, between the United Kingdom, the United States of America, British Colonies and Foreign Countries, with the increase or decrease in the export trade that was carried on :—

Countries to which exported.	Value of Exports.		1896.	
	1895.	1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	48,708	44,703	—	4,005
British Colonies	56,022	54,027	—	1,995
United States of America ...	142,826	196,141	53,315	—
Other Foreign Countries ...	20,266	21,639	1,373	—
Total	£267,822	£316,510	£54,688	£,6000

Net Increase £48,688.

The Export trade between the Presidencies during the year—exclusive of Coin and Bullion—aggregated £14,624, as compared with £19,621 in 1895, shewing a reduced trade to the extent of £4,997.

The principal Exports to countries beyond the Colony, with the respective quantities and gross value of each of the several articles enumerated, are given in the following tabulated Return :—

Articles.		1895.		1896.	
		Exports.	Value.	Exports.	Value.
			£		£
Sugar...	Tons	27,592	173,652	32,498	228,612
Molasses	Puns	8,436	23,290	9,565	14,825
Rum	Galls.	62,395	2,788	30,656	1,112
Coffee	Lbs.	12,726	459	38,528	1,280
Cocoa...	Lbs.	617,836	8,444	944,349	12,823
Limes and Lime Juice ...		—	19,599	—	19,240
Total		—	£228,232	—	£277,892

The decrease in the value of the Exportations to the United Kingdom occurred in the articles of Sugar, Rum, and Limes and Lime Juice, and the increased Exportations to the United States of America in those of Sugar, Molasses, and Limes and Lime Juice.

E. Alexander Foster,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

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1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 246.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 227.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
October, 1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	„
219	Lagos	„
220	Gold Coast	„
221	Labuan	„
222	British Guiana	1896-97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896-97
225	Jamaica	„
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	„
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	„
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	„
231	Barbados	„
232	Lagos	„
233	St. Vincent	„
234	Sierra Leone	„
235	Falkland Islands	„
236	Straits Settlements	„
237	British New Guinea	1896-97
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia	„
240	St. Helena	„
241	Trinidad and Tobago	„
242	British Honduras	„
243	Malta	„
244	Fiji	„
245	Hong Kong	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 246.

LEEWARD ISLANDS

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 227.)

GOVERNOR SIR F. FLEMING to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Springfield House,
St. Kitts,
9th September, 1898.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Report of the Colonial Secretary on the Blue Book of the Leeward Islands Colony for the year 1897.

2. It will be noticed that with the exception of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, in which Presidencies there was a trifling increase of revenue during the year 1897, when compared with that of 1896, the revenue in the other Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Dominica has considerably fallen off.

3. It is satisfactory to find that in all the Presidencies there has been an increase in the revenues from the Postal Departments, although it is significant of the impoverished condition of the people, that while the total amount of money orders issued in the various post offices of the Colony in the year 1896 was £45,260, it dwindled down, during the year 1897, to £20,191.

4. Proposals have been made recently for a reduction in postal rates, and although a reduction from 2½*d*. per half ounce for letters to foreign parts to 2*d*. or 1*d*. would probably affect the revenue of the Colony for some little time, my belief is that a reduction in postage rates would eventually result in an increase of correspondence which would give rise to a larger amount of revenue being derived from this source.

656—750—9/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

5. Every endeavour has been made to reduce the expenditure of the Colony during the last few years. The expenditure for 1897 was £8,511 less than for 1896, while it was £24,412 less than in 1895.

6. The total population of the Colony is, in so far as an opinion can be formed in the absence of statistics as to emigration and immigration, 138,063, being 10,340 in excess of the population when the last census was taken in 1891.

7. The value of imports into the Colony during 1897 was less by £89,541 than that of the previous year, proving the depression which has prevailed, and which resulted in reduced orders for goods by the merchants generally.

8. The impoverished condition of the people has also told unfavourably in regard to education. The average attendance at the elementary schools and the amount of school fees received have both decreased in 1897, when compared with the year before. But this is not surprising. The compulsory education laws have to be worked with every care and judgment during such a crisis as these Islands have been passing through. I have been credibly informed that in many instances parents lacked not only the means of paying the school fees, but they were utterly unable to provide their children with clothing sufficiently decent for the children to present themselves at school. I was informed of one instance in Nevis where a child was actually refused admittance to the school on this account.

9. So soon as the financial condition of the Colony can allow of it, I would urgently advocate that compulsory education should be free.

10. There are some who recommend the abolition of compulsory education in present circumstances, but this I should be sorry to see.

11. It is the duty of every State to attend to the proper education of its young, and although I should be glad of some further extension of technical education in these Islands, it must be borne in mind that primary education forms the essential foundation upon which education in other directions has to depend.

12. As a proof of the good results of compulsory education, I may state that since it came into force in 1892 the average attendance in primary schools has increased—in Antigua, 56 per cent.; in St. Kitts and Anguilla, 112 per cent.; in Nevis, 88 per cent.; in Dominica, 78 per cent.; and in Montserrat 127 per cent.

13. I concur with the Colonial Secretary that the attitude of the Colony during 1897 was one of despondency.

14. The assistance which has been afforded and which has been promised by the Imperial Government since the beginning of the present year, has done something to inspire hope and confidence for the future, but it is difficult to see how the condition of affairs generally is likely to improve in these Islands, the prosperity of which is almost entirely dependent upon sugar, and must necessarily be so for some time to come, until something is done to render more certain the conditions on which the sugar industry is to be carried on. This, however, would seem impossible so long as the bounty system is allowed to continue.

I have, &c.,

F. FLEMING.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1897.

REVENUE.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies composing the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the year 1897 was £124,768, showing a decrease of £13,892 as compared with the revenue of the previous year, which amounted to £138,660.

The following return shows the amount of revenue collected in each Presidency during the years 1896 and 1897, with the increase or decrease in each case :—

Presidency.	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Antigua	54,951	46,330	—	8,621
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	49,561	45,247	—	4,314
Dominica	24,904	23,610	—	1,294
Montserrat ...	7,775	7,906	131	—
Virgin Islands ...	1,469	1,675	206	—
Total ...	138,660	124,768	337	14,229

Net decrease £13,892.

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1897.

In comparing the detailed statements of Revenue for the year 1897 with those of the previous year, it will be seen that in the Presidency of Antigua there was a decrease under the head of Customs of £5,660 and in St. Kitts-Nevis of £2,058, while under the same head there were in the Presidencies of Dominica, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands increases of £1,157, £204, and £310.

Under Internal Revenue (including excise, taxes, licenses rates and miscellaneous revenue) there occurred decreases as compared with 1896 of £658 in Antigua, of £3,421 in St. Kitts-Nevis, of £2,838 in Dominica, and of £295 in Montserrat, while there was a small increase in the Virgin Islands.

In all the Presidencies there was an increase in the revenue received under the head of Post Office.

EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure in the various Presidencies was £140,926 as compared with £149,437 in the previous year, thus showing a reduction in the aggregate expenditure of the Colony of £8,511 compared with that of 1896, and of £24,412 as compared with the expenditure of 1895.

The following table shows the expenditure of the various Presidencies composing the Colony during the years 1896 and 1897, with the increase or decrease in each case :—

Presidency.	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Antigua	57,345	53,417	—	3,928
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	56,501	51,775	—	4,726
Dominica	25,189	24,062	—	1,127
Montserrat ...	8,732	9,895	1,163*	—
Virgin Islands ...	1,670	1,777	107	—
Total ...	149,437	140,926	1,270	9,781

Net decrease £8,511.

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* NOTE.—This excess was due to expenditure on repairs of special damages done by the flood of November, 1896.

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1897.

The largest decrease of expenditure in 1897 occurred under the heads Miscellaneous (a decrease of £3,119), Federal Contribution (decrease of £2,491), and Education (decrease of £1,292).

The following comparative return of the revenue and expenditure of the various Presidencies during the year shows that there was a gross excess of expenditure over revenue of £16,158 :—

Presidency.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Excess.
	£	£	£
Antigua	46,330	53,417	7,087
St. Kitts-Nevis... ...	45,247	51,775	6,528
Dominica	23,610	24,062	452
Montserrat	7,906	9,895	1,989
Virgin Islands	1,675	1,777	102
Total	124,768	140,926	16,158

Reviewing the expenditure of the Colony for the year 1897, it will be seen that although the actual expenditure was decreased by £8,511, the revenue for the year was £13,892 less than that of the previous year.

To meet these deficiencies Loan Acts in aid of revenue were passed by Antigua and by Montserrat, a similar Ordinance having been passed in the previous year by the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis.

The account of the Presidency of the Virgin Islands remained still overdrawn.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, which on 31st December, 1896, stood at £301,221, was increased during the year 1897 to £335,621 by the issue of the loans in aid of revenue referred to above, namely, St. Kitts-Nevis £15,000, Antigua £13,000, and Montserrat £7,000. The amount sanctioned by the Act in Antigua was £20,000, but only £13,000 has been raised.

The following table shows the individual liability of the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica and

Montserrat, with the amount at the credit of the various Sinking Fund Accounts at the close of 1897 :—

Presidency.		Debt.	To Credit of Sinking Fund.
Antigua ...	...	150,671	14,151
St. Kitts-Nevis	...	89,450	3,776
Dominica ...	...	70,900	8,929
Montserrat	...	24,600	538
Total	...	335,621	27,394

POPULATION.

The statistics for the year 1897 show a total for the Colony of 5,244 births, 3,215 deaths, and 489 marriages. The Census of 1891 showed a total population for the Colony of 127,723. From this date up to the 31st December 1897 the total excess of births over deaths has been 10,340, which gives an apparent total of 138,063 as the population at the present date, but this total cannot be considered reliable in the absence of statistics as to emigration and immigration. In consequence of the depressed and impoverished condition of the Colony, many of the younger men have left in search of employment elsewhere during the past year or two.

The following summary shows the population at the close of 1897 (subject, as above stated, to the unrecorded results of emigration and immigration), with the number of births, deaths, and marriages in each Island of the Colony during the past year. It will be seen that there has been in all cases a considerable excess of births over deaths :—

—			Population on 31st December 1897.	Births.	Deaths.	Increase.	Marriages.
Antigua ...	...		37,402	1,457	1,050	407	144
Barbuda ...	...		678	39	30	9	1
St. Kitts...	...		32,823	1,342	836	506	126
Nevis ...	...		14,659	637	300	337	41
Anguilla	...		4,209	180	53	127	21
Dominica	...	...	29,514	882	550	332	82
Montserrat	...	...	13,509	527	286	241	49
Virgin Islands ...		...	5,269	180	110	70	25
Total	...	...	138,063	5,244	3,215	2,029	489

LEGISLATION.

A session of the General Legislative Council was held at Antigua in December 1897, the Council sitting from the 9th to the 18th of that month.

The total number of Acts of the year 1897 was 36, of which, however, 11 were passed by the Council in December 1896, but were not assented to until after the close of that year.

Of these Acts the most important were—

No. 9, "An Act to amend the Leeward Islands Police Act, 1874."

No. 16, "An Act to provide for the recognition in this Colony of probate and letters of Administration granted in the United Kingdom and in British Possessions."

No. 23, "An Act to amend the law with respect to riots and unlawful assemblies."

No. 25, "An Act to amend the law with respect to malicious injuries to property."

In addition to those enumerated above, Acts were passed reducing the salaries of the Colonial Secretary, of the Judges of the Supreme Court, of the Inspector of Schools, of the Auditor-General, and of the Attorney-General. These reductions will take effect on vacancies occurring in any of these offices.

The Act No. 31 also provided for the appointment of assistants to the Attorney-General to be resident in the Presidencies of St. Kitts-Nevis and Dominica.

The local legislature of Antigua passed eighteen Acts, of which the most important were the St. Johns City Board Act (which, however, requires considerable amendment, and will be re-introduced in 1898), and the Defence Force Act, by which a Defence Force was established for the Presidency of Antigua.

In St. Kitts-Nevis the following were the most important of the thirteen Ordinances passed :—"An Ordinance to amend the law with respect to the Treasury Department" and the "Land and House Tax Amendment Ordinance."

The local legislature of Dominica passed eight Acts, none of which call for comment.

In Montserrat thirteen Ordinances were passed, of which the most important was the Plymouth Improvement Ordinance.

In the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, laws to prevent the importation of disease among plants were passed. An Act was passed in 1896 by the General Legislature on this subject, but it was held to be *ultra vires*, and the Act was therefore repealed and local enactments were introduced and passed as stated above. Up to the close of the year, however, the local Act for the Presidency of Dominica had not been passed.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Mr. Edward Alexander Foster was appointed Auditor-General of the Colony on the 13th April, in succession to Mr. L. J. Bertram. Mr. Foster arrived on the 21st April and assumed duty.

Mr. E. B. Jarvis, Mr. G. O. Nugent, and Mr. G. H. V. Mercier were appointed 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Clerks, respectively, in the office of the Colonial Secretary.

Messrs. George C. Johnson and C. R. Rannie were appointed Audit Clerks in St. Kitts-Nevis and in Dominica, respectively.

Mr. G. C. Faille was appointed 2nd Clerk in the Registrar's Office, Antigua.

Captain G. A. Luscombe was appointed Inspector of the Antigua Division of the Police Force.

Mr. W. J. Essex was appointed Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum at Rat Island.

Mr. N. Lockhart was appointed Acting Treasurer of St. Kitts on the 30th September.

Mr. W. M. Wigley succeeded Mr. G. G. Kirton (resigned) as 1st Clerk in the Registrar's Office, St. Kitts, and Mr. J. P. Turner received the appointment of 2nd Clerk.

Mr. N. G. Cookman was confirmed in his appointment as Commissioner of the Virgin Islands on the 5th October.

EDUCATION.

The attendance at the Elementary Schools has slightly decreased during the year 1897 as compared with 1896, the numbers on the roll in 1896 being 25,439, and in 1897, 25,022. There is a consequent decrease in the average attendances from 12,894 in 1896 to 12,438 in 1897. The School fees received were £331 14*s*. 9*d*. in 1897, as against £465 0*s*. 11*d*. in 1896. The Government grants paid were respectively £7,240 in 1896 and £7,090 in 1897, while the amount of voluntary contributions received decreased from £934 in 1896 to £532 in 1897.

The total amount expended on education therefore in 1897, comprising school fees, Government grants, and voluntary contributions, was £7,964 17*s*. 6*d*. or £675 13*s*. 0*d*. less than the expenditure of the previous year.

In the Skerretts (Boys) Training School at Antigua there were at the commencement of the year 160 inmates, including 83 from the other Presidencies, but owing to the necessity for reducing expenditure a number of boys from other islands were withdrawn, and the total number at the close of the year was 100, including 30 from other Presidencies.

The number of inmates of the Girls Training School at Scotts Hill was similarly reduced from 67 to 56, and it was decided, as a measure of economy, to close this School during the year 1898.

As regards Skerretts Farm, which is worked by the boys in connection with the school, the experimental cultivation of a large number of varieties of sugar cane was carried on as in former years, and an exhaustive report on the results obtained was drawn up by Mr. F. Watts, Government Analytical Chemist, and Mr. F. R. Shepherd, the Superintendent of Skerretts School.

The total expenditure on Skerretts Stock Farm and Estate, worked by the boys, was £494 17*s.* 2*d.*, while the receipts from the farm amounted to £359 1*s.* 4*d.*

The estimated value of the stock exceeds £2,000, and the value of the farm in improving the breeds of horses, cattle, pigs, and poultry, has been very considerable. This has been especially the case with the Mysore breed of cattle, imported some years ago from the Government Stock Farm in Trinidad, there being now a considerable number of half-bred Mysore bullocks in the Island.

IMPORTS.

The total value of the imports during the year 1897 (exclusive of internal trade between the various Presidencies of the Colony) was £312,657, as against £402,198, being a decrease of £89,541. This is a very serious decrease, which is due to the general depression prevailing and to the consequent reduced orders for goods forwarded by merchants in the Colony.

The following return shows the total value of imports in 1896 and 1897, distinguishing the countries from which the articles were imported, from which it appears that there was a decrease in each case :—

Country whence Imported.	Value of Imports.		1897.	
	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	178,917	133,497	—	45,420
British Colonies	57,949	41,694	—	16,255
United States of America ...	149,982	124,064	—	25,918
Other Foreign Countries ...	15,350	13,402	—	1,948
Total	402,198	312,657	—	89,541

Net decrease, £89,541.

The internal trade between the various Presidencies composing the Colony of the Leeward Islands shows a total value of goods exchanged or imported of £13,096, as against £14,095 in the previous year.

The table given above shows that, although there was a decrease in the value of imports from all the countries named, yet the decrease in the value of imports from the United Kingdom and from British Colonies was proportionately much greater than in the case of goods imported from the United States of America. This appears curious, inasmuch as a comparison of the figures of 1895 and 1896 shows that there was in the latter year an increase of import trade with the United Kingdom and British Colonies, and a falling off in the trade with America.

The following table gives the aggregate values of the imports for the years 1896 and 1897, made up of the various classes of articles, of which the values are shown in the statement. It will be noticed that the greatest decrease occurs in foodstuffs, in textile manufactured goods, and in other classes of manufactured articles which are not specially enumerated:—

Article.	1896.	1897.	1897.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Live animals...	2,649	979	—	1,670
Food	158,378	132,320	—	26,058
Drinks	13,993	11,443	—	2,550
Narcotics	3,792	3,722	—	70
Raw materials	16,953	9,947	—	7,006
Manufactured Articles:—				
Textile	91,376	67,688	—	23,688
Metal	20,873	16,912	—	3,961
Other Manufactures ...	92,684	69,540	—	23,144
	400,698	312,551	—	88,147
Coin and Bullion	1,500	106	—	1,394
Total	402,198	312,657	—	89,541

EXPORTS.

The total value of the exports during the year 1897 (exclusive of internal trade between the various Presidencies of the Colony) was £328,496 as compared with £316,510 for the year 1896, being an increase of £11,980.

The following return shows the total value of exports during the years 1896 and 1897, distinguishing the countries to which the various articles of export were sent, and showing the increase or decrease in each case :—

Countries to which Exported.	1896.	1897.	1897.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	44,703	49,582	4,879	—
British Colonies	54,027	38,925	—	15,102
United States of America ...	196,141	223,150	27,009	—
Other Foreign Countries ...	21,639	16,839	—	4,800
Total	316,510	328,496	31,888	19,902

Net increase, £11,986.

The export trade between the various Presidencies amounted to £11,422, as against £14,624 in 1896, showing a decrease of £3,202.

The following return shows the principal exports, with the quantities and values of each respectively, for the years 1896 and 1897 :—

Articles.	1896.		1897	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Sugar ... ... Tons	32,498	228,612	28,555	236,209
Molasses ... ... Pun.	9,565	14,825	7,483	12,506
Rum ... ... Gals.	30,656	1,112	62,686	2,265
Coffee ... ... Lbs.	38,528	1,280	20,533	722
Cocoa ... ... „	944,349	12,823	593,680	9,007
Lime and Lime Juice	—	19,240	—	24,514
Total	—	277,892	—	285,223

SHIPPING.

The following table shows the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared at the various Islands of the Colony during the year 1897, distinguishing between British and foreign vessels:—

Island.	British.		Foreign.		Total Tonnage.	
	Steam Vessels entered and cleared.	Sailing Vessels entered and cleared.	Steam Vessels entered and cleared.	Sailing Vessels entered and cleared.	Steam.	Sailing.
Antigua ...	421,880	20,582	—	3,486	421,880	24,068
St. Kitts ... Nevis ... Anguilla ...	441,340	23,528	11,736	15,025	453,076	38,553
Dominica ...	393,840	9,618	1,240	2,762	395,080	12,380
Montserrat ...	214,144	12,503	—	2,068	214,144	14,571
Virgin Islands	—	10,289	—	1,256	—	11,545
Total ...	1,471,204	76,520	12,976	24,597	1,484,180	101,117

Comparing the above figures with those of 1896, it appears that there was in 1897 a decrease of 35,426 tons in steam vessels, and of 10,543 tons in sailing vessels.

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

The total number of prisoners received during the year under review in the gaols of the various Presidencies amounted to 1,700, of which 947 were males, 715 females and 38 juveniles. The total number of deaths in prison during the year was 8, including one prisoner executed.

Leeward Islands.
1897.

The following table shows the number of cases treated by the prison surgeon at Antigua during the year, with the complaint in each case :—

Diseases or Complaints.	Male.	Female.
Skin diseases	18	4
Gastro-intestinal diseases	173	1
Malingering	133	2
Rheumatism	83	12
Genito-urinary	28	8
Slight injuries	24	5
Epistaxis	1	0
Elephantiasis...	2	0
Apoplexy	1	0
Lung diseases	83	12
Heart diseases	13	0
Eye diseases	11	0
Fevers...	43	6
Abscess	15	2
Hernia	5	0
Headaches	6	0
Debility	27	2

There were 4 deaths of prisoners confined in the common gaol at Antigua ; two occurred in the gaol, one from apoplexy and one from diarrhœa ; the other two took place in the hospital in the case of prisoners transferred from the gaol, the cause in one case being typhoid fever and in the other tuberculosis.

The total number of prisoners admitted during the year was 568, including 36 from the other Presidencies of the Colony.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.
1897.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The aggregate number of offences reported to the police during 1897 was 13,261, as against 15,128 in the preceding year. Of these 3,800 were offences against the person, 990 prædial larceny, 1,718 were offences against property (except prædial larceny), while 6753 came under all other heads.

Summary convictions were recorded against 5,789 persons in the magistrates' courts, and there were 48 convictions in the superior courts. In the magistrates' courts 7,194 persons were acquitted, while in the superior courts there were 61 acquittals, and in 3 cases a *nolle prosequi* was entered.

HOSPITALS.

The following tables show briefly the particulars as to the number of patients who received medical treatment in 1897 in the hospitals, lunatic asylums, and leper asylums throughout the Colony, with the numbers discharged from these institutions and also the number of deaths which occurred :—

Hospital.	Number in Hospital on 1st January 1897.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua	135	1,590	361	980	—	224
Cunningham, St. Kitts	124	806	459	216	61	82
Pogson, St. Kitts ...	23	201	101	95	9	11
Nevis	21	83	36	23	—	12
* Roseau, Dominica ...	54	350	283	44	3	10
* Chateau (Montserrat)	67	46	—	38	—	16
Hospital (Montserrat)	3	33	30	—	—	5
Virgin Islands... ...	12	7	—	18	—	1

* Including inmates of Yaws Ward or Hospital.

LUNATIC ASYLUMS (Antigua).

Asylum.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1897.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Rat Island	48	26	15	4	—	10
Ridge	32	6	—	—	1	2

LEPER ASYLUMS.

Asylum.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1897.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua	32	2	—	—	—	3
St. Kitts	63	4	—	—	—	7

SAVINGS BANKS.

Savings Banks are established in all the Presidencies with the exception of the Virgin Islands. The total amount of money deposited during the year 1897 was £18,491, as against £22,817 for the previous year, the amount withdrawn being £20,407 in 1897, as against £27,111 in 1896. There was thus a decrease in the amount lodged in 1897 of £4,326, while the amount withdrawn was less by the sum of £6,704.

The following table shows the amount at the credit of depositors on 31st December, 1897, in each Savings Bank, with the number of depositors at the same date. :—

Bank.	No. of Depositors on 31st December.	Amount at credit of Depositors on 31st December, 1897.		
		£	s.	d.
Antigua ...	1,696	36,572	7	7
St. Kitts ...	323	6,632	11	7
Nevis	86	3,214	13	6
Dominica ...	303	4,671	19	9
Montserrat ...	155	3,025	14	4
Total ...	2,563	£54,117	6	9

POST OFFICE.

It is satisfactory to find, from a comparison between the total expenditure and the total revenue of the last two years, that while the total expenditure was £454 less in 1897 than in 1896, the total revenue was £372 more in 1897 than in 1896. Hence the net deficit on the working of the Post Office for 1897 was only £89 10*s*. 5½*d*., as against a deficit in 1896 of £914 11*s*. 8*d*. In other words, the Post Office is now almost self-supporting, including the payment of the annual Mail Subsidy. In 1895 the total excess of expenditure over revenue was £1,783 2*s*.

The total amount of Money Orders issued in the various Post Offices during 1897 was £20,191, as against £45,260 in 1896. The total amount of Money Orders cashed in the Colony in 1897 was £20,639, as against £13,984 in 1896. The large diminution in the amount of Orders issued is a significant sign of the depression in trade which prevailed during the year.

A comparison of the amount of postal matter of all kinds received and despatched during the years 1896 and 1897 shows that during the latter year there was a substantial diminution in the numbers of letters, cards, papers, books, and parcels transmitted to and from the Colony.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The average rainfall at 54 stations in Antigua was only 39·67 inches, being 6·15 inches below the average rainfall for the past 24 years, and upwards of 20 inches less than the average rainfall in 1896.

The rainfall recorded at the town of Basseterre in St. Kitts was 37·91 inches in 1887.

In Dominica the average rainfall at 21 stations was 114·71 inches.

In Montserrat the only rainfall recorded (at Elberton) amounted to 64·10 inches for the year. There were during the year constant earthquake shocks in this Presidency, varying in force and duration.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Reviewing the general features which present themselves to our notice in examining the statistics of the year 1897, we find the retrospect by no means satisfactory. It has been a year of great depression in trade (indicated by a reduction of nearly £90,000 in the value of imports), of drought (as shown by the fact that the rainfall was over 6 inches short of the average), and of painful uncertainty as to whether the cultivation of the staple product, sugar, would not shortly become impossible. A number of estates have been put out of cultivation and the labour employed on all was reduced to a minimum, while wages were reduced as low as possible.

Fortunately the prices obtained for sugar were considerably higher in 1897 than in 1896, so that with a total crop nearly 4,000 tons less, the prices obtained amounted to nearly £8,000 more in the aggregate. It is due to the improved prices obtained for sugar and molasses that the value of exports shows an increase of nearly £12,000 over the exports of 1896.

Retrenchment has been carried out, where it was possible, in the public expenditure, and permanent reductions of expenditure in the establishment have been provided for in the future by the passing of Acts reducing the salaries of most of the higher officials, which will come into force as vacancies occur in the several offices.

There appears little else to add. The attitude of the Colony has been one of despondency, into which, however, hope has been infused by the knowledge that efforts were being made by the

Imperial Government to obtain a removal, or at least a diminution, of the various burthens which now threaten to break the back of the sugar industry. May the year of Her Most Gracious Majesty's Diamond Jubilee prove to have been the turning point in the long period of depression which Her Colonies in the West Indies have undergone!

GEO. MELVILLE,

Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Leeward Islands,
25th August, 1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 266.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 246.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1899.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
240	St. Helena	1897
241	Trinidad and Tobago	"
242	British Honduras	"
243	Malta	"
244	Fiji	"
245	Hong Kong	"
246	Leeward Islands	"
247	Grenada	"
248	Gibraltar	"
249	Gold Coast	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	"
254	Ceylon	"
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	"
262	Barbados	1898
263	Falkland Islands	"
264	Gambia	"
265	St. Helena	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica...	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Report on Vital Statistics, 1898.

No. 266.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1898.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 246.)

GOVERNOR SIR F. FLEMING to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Antigua,
19th June, 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1898 together with the Report on the same which has been prepared by Mr. Melville, the Colonial Secretary.

2. Every attempt has been made to draw up this Report in conformity with the instructions contained in your circular despatch of the 31st of January last, and for the Blue Book to be forwarded to you at as early a date as possible, but owing to the delays which are caused by references to the different Presidencies of this Government it is very difficult for the Blue Book to be transmitted as soon as it otherwise might be.

3. The credit of the completion of the Blue Book at a comparatively early period of the year is greatly due to the exertions of Mr. Gordon, the Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office, who has spared no trouble in his endeavours to obtain the necessary returns &c., and to facilitate the preparation of the report of the Colonial Secretary on the lines desired by you.

4. In order to expedite matters as much as possible I authorized the Colonial Secretary to communicate direct with the different Presidencies on all matters relating to the Blue Book, and this course has somewhat assisted in bringing about its early completion.

5. I need add but few remarks to what Mr. Melville has stated in his report. The revenue in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and

Montserrat decreased during the year 1898 when compared with 1897 by some £13,000, while the expenditure of Antigua and Montserrat increased by about £4,200. In Dominica and the Virgin Islands there was an increase of revenue amounting to £1,000, and a decrease of expenditure in St. Kitts-Nevis of about £7,000.

The total expenditure of the Colony was, however, £2,314 less than in 1897, £10,825 less than in 1896, and £26,762 less than in 1895.

6. The constitutional changes which were brought about in Antigua and Dominica, and to which Mr. Melville alludes under the heading "Legislation," will, I believe, prove beneficial to both of these Presidencies.

7. I referred in my despatch of the 9th September last, when forwarding the Blue Book for 1897, to what I believed would be the result of a reduced rate of postage.

As the new postal rate of 1*d.* per half ounce only came into operation on the 25th of December last, no reference could be made in the present Blue Book to returns based thereon for the year 1898, but from such information as I have been furnished with recently, I believe the result of the penny postage system will, far from causing a decrease in the revenue, considerably increase the receipts of the Postal Department.

8. It is a matter for regret that it should have been necessary to reduce the amount for school grants in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis by 25 per cent., but I hope it may be possible for Dr. Morris, the Imperial Commissioner for Agriculture, to assist this Colony in furthering industrial and agricultural teaching—branches of education which cannot fail to benefit many of the rising generation in these Islands.

9. The Mico Institution, referred to under the head of "Education" in the report, is not to be continued after the end of this year. It is unfortunate that such an institution should have to close its doors, although I do not anticipate much difficulty in obtaining male teachers for the Primary Schools.

10. With a decreasing revenue and with the difficulty of reducing expenditure except by degrees, it has been impossible to attempt the undertaking of any public works of importance, although whenever an opportunity offers, some attempt should be made to improve the lunatic and leper asylums in this Presidency, the unsatisfactory condition of which I have felt bound to bring to your notice on several occasions.

11. Enquiries have recently been made as to the possibility of establishing central sugar factories in some of the islands of this Colony, more especially Antigua.

12. I sincerely trust that these investigations will have a satisfactory result, for I feel perfectly sure that without the introduction of machinery which will allow of sugar being manufactured in such a way as to prevent that waste which now takes place, and of such a description as will render it a marketable commodity, Antigua and St. Kitts cannot hope for much improvement in the future.

13. With the establishment of central factories, which will moreover give employment to many, and with the abolition of the bounty system, I see no reason why these Islands, which are in many respects favoured by nature, should not be able to meet their expenses and attain a reasonable degree of prosperity in the future.

I have, &c.,

F. FLEMING.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1898.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Leeward Islands,
24th May, 1899.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the year 1898, exclusive of grants in aid from the Imperial Government, was £112,577, showing a net decrease of £12,191, as compared with the revenue of the previous year, which amounted to £124,768.

The following table shows the amount of revenue collected in each Presidency of the Colony during each of the last five years, showing also the increase or decrease in 1898 as compared with 1897 :—

Presidency.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	Increase 1898 over 1897.	Decrease 1898 under 1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	57,678	44,348	54,951	46,330	39,663	—	6,667
St. Kitts-Nevis	55,443	43,215	49,561	45,247	40,430	—	4,817
Dominica	22,982	22,860	24,904	23,610	24 570	960	—
Montserrat	8,677	7,125	7,775	7,906	6,199	—	1,707
Virgin Islands	2,577	1,534	1,469	1,675	1,715	40	—
Total	147,357	119,082	138,660	124,768	112,577	1,000	13,191

Net decrease of revenue in 1898, as compared with 1897, £12,191.

From a comparison of the receipts of 1898 with those of 1897 it appears that under the head of Customs there were, in the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat, decreases of £2,600, £1,138, and £142 respectively, while the Presidencies of Dominica and the Virgin Islands showed increased receipts under this head of £1,064 and £103 respectively.

The item "Port and Harbour Dues &c." reflects the position of the Customs receipts, there being a decrease in 1898 in the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat, and a slight increase in Dominica and the Virgin Islands.

Under the head of Excise, the Presidency of Antigua shows a decrease in 1898 over the previous year's receipts of £15, St. Kitts-Nevis a decrease of £385, and Montserrat a large decrease of £613, while Dominica shows an increase of £72[illegible].

The remaining heads under Internal Revenue (taxes, licenses, rates, and miscellaneous) show a total decrease of £5,521, and it is worthy of remark that in each individual Presidency there is a decrease in each one of these heads, with the single exception of the item of rates, which in Antigua shows an increase of £325 and in Dominica a small increase of some £10.

The revenue derived from "Fees of Court, Post Office, Rents, Interest, Miscellaneous and Land Sales" was less by £3,154 in 1898 than in 1897.

Expenditure.

The total expenditure of the various Presidencies for the year 1898 was £138,612, as against £140,926 for the previous year, showing a decrease of £2,314.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1898.

The following table shows the expenditure of each Presidency for each of the last five years, as well as the increase or decrease in 1898 as compared with 1897 :—

Presidency.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	Increase 1898 over 1897.	Decrease 1898 under 1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	59,675	70,221	57,345	53,417	55,586	2,169	—
St. Kitts-Nevis	58,761	55,395	56,501	51,775	44,659	—	7,116
Dominica	27,833	27,102	25,189	24,062	24,648	586	—
Montserrat	8,301	10,702	8,732	9,895	11,936	2,041	—
Virgin Islands	1,602	1,954	1,670	1,777	1,783	6	—
Total	156,172	165,374	149,437	140,926	138,612	4,802	7,116

Net decrease of expenditure in 1898, as compared with 1897, £2,314.

Comparing the various heads of expenditure in each Presidency with those of the previous year it will be seen that the principal heads in which an increase of expenditure occurs in 1898, as compared with 1897, were Charges on account of Public Debt, which shows an increase of £1,212; Federal Contribution an increase of £745; Post Office an increase of £1,111, and Public Works Extraordinary an increase of £1,953. The latter increase is due to the fact that with the sanction of the Secretary of State some expenditure in the shape of relief works occurred in Antigua, while in Montserrat a considerable sum was expended in repairs to roads damaged by floods.

A large decrease of expenditure was effected in various directions, principally £3,087 under Education (the school grants being reduced by 25 per cent. in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis). Under the head of Miscellaneous a reduction of £922 occurred, while decreases of £630, £518, £490 and £361 appear under the respective heads of Police, Treasury, Military, Public Works Department and Laboratory.

Passing briefly in review the expenditure of each Presidency in turn, the following salient features present themselves:—

Antigua shows increases of £756 under the head of Charges on account of Public Debt, of £533 on account of Federal Contribution, of £583 on account of Hospitals (mainly due to increased poor relief, necessitated by a long drought), of £320 under Board of Health (mainly for expenditure by the Board on the work of cleaning out ponds used for drinking purposes in the country districts, a work which was rendered possible through the exceptional dryness of the season), of £770 under Post Office (including accounts for three years payment of sum due to the General Post Office for ocean postage), and of over £2,000 expended in relief works (chiefly road repairs), with the sanction of the Secretary of State.

The principal decreases of expenditure in Antigua were £259 under the head of Police (owing to the pay of a detachment temporarily stationed in Montserrat being charged to the latter Presidency), £1,458 under Education, and £200 under the subhead of Telegraphs, the subsidy of the West India and Panama Company being reduced by that amount.

The total deficit on the working of the year 1898 in this Presidency was £15,923, which was met by a grant from the Imperial Parliament, which also enabled £13,000 to be applied to repayment of loans, and £1,450 to the repayment of a debt due to the Presidency on account of the Island of Barbuda.

In St. Kitts-Nevis a total decrease of expenditure appears in 1898 as compared with 1897 of £7,116, reductions occurring under the following heads, namely:—Treasury and Customs, £567; Police, £482; Prisons, £308; Medical, £380; Hospitals, £308; Education, £1,599; Laboratory (abolished), £267; Military, £275; Miscellaneous, £1,490; Post Office, £939;

Telegraphs (subsidy reduced), £200; Public Works Department, £227; and Public Works Extraordinary, £580.

The only head which shows any material *increase in this* Presidency is that of Charges on account of Public Debt, which is larger by £256 than the previous year.

The total deficit in St. Kitts-Nevis was £4,229 which was met by an Imperial grant, from which a sum of £15,000 was also applied to repayment of loans.

In Dominica there was a total increase of expenditure of £586 as compared with 1897—the principal items of increase being Police, £116; Hospitals, £189; and Miscellaneous, £458.

The principal heads of decrease in this Presidency were Pensions, £201; and Public Works Recurrent, £282.

The Presidency of Montserrat shows a total increase of expenditure of £2,041 in 1898 over that of 1897, the increases appearing under the heads of Charges on account of Debt, £200; Miscellaneous, £761; Public Works Recurrent, £454; and Public Works Extraordinary, £502.

The increases were mainly due to expenses incurred in connection with a riot which unfortunately occurred during the year, and to expenditure on account of roads and buildings damaged by flood and earthquakes.

The total deficit in Montserrat at the close of the year 1898 was £5,737 (the revenue being £6,199, as against a total expenditure of £11,936). This was met by a grant from the Imperial Parliament, while from the same source a sum of £7,000 was applied to repayment of loans.

The Presidency of the Virgin Islands shows an expenditure only some £6 in excess of that of the previous year, calling for no remark.

The overdraft on the Crown Agents, which has stood for some years as a floating debt of this Presidency, was extinguished by the payment of £2,250 by the Imperial Government.

(B.) CHANGES IN TAXATION.

In Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Montserrat, the land tax on lands cultivated for sugar was considerably reduced for the year commencing on April 1st, while the export duties payable in St. Kitts-Nevis and Dominica were remitted for the same period. An Ordinance was also passed in Antigua increasing the import duties on spirits (other than rum) and on flour, bread, and fish.

This Ordinance, however, did not receive Her Majesty's approval, and has since been repealed so far as the increase of duty on flour, bread, and fish was concerned, while the increased duties on spirits remain in force.

In St. Kitts-Nevis, Ordinances were passed during the year imposing additional duties of customs on rum and kerosine, while a tax was also imposed on all wheeled vehicles within the Presidency.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1898.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Federal Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1898.

Liabilities.	—			Assets.	—		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Presidencies...	624	1	11	By Presidencies...	92	15	5
„ Money Order accounts	729	11	5	„ Money Order accounts	600	0	0
„ Deposit accounts :—				„ Investment accounts :—			
Land Assurance Fund	1,402	2	1	Land Assurance Fund	1,300	0	0
„ Sundry Creditors	22	15	0	„ Sundry Debtors	720	17	1
„ Drafts on Crown Agents	50	0	0	„ Cash	114	17	11
Total	2,828	10	5	Total	2,828	10	5

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1898.

PRESIDENCY OF ANTIGUA.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December, 1898.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Advances and Deposits received ...	—	427 13 1	Advances	—	876 18 7½
Sundry Creditors	—	960 16 2	Crown Agents	804 2 10	
Drafts on Crown Agents	—	400 0 0	Treasurer	149 18 0½	954 0 10½
Loans Works (Balance of Appropriation).	—	10,206 6 1	Excess of Liabilities	—	10,163 15 10
Total	—	11,994 15 4	Total	—	11,994 15 4

PRESIDENCY OF ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December, 1898.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Advances and Deposits received ...	—	438 16 0	CASH—In Colonial Bank on Current account.	2,183 16 1	—
Crown Agents...	—	1,834 17 8	In Treasury Chest, Anguilla.	35 18 1	2,219 14 2
Loan Works (1891)	1,652 13 9		G. H Turner's sureties	—	100 0 0
" " (1893)	2,763 12 6	4,416 6 3	G. H. Turner	—	115 18 11
Money Orders	—	162 5 6	Money Orders	—	491 7 11
Sundry Creditors	—	428 11 5	Advances	—	830 12 6
			Remittances in Transit	—	118 0 0
			Excess of Liabilities	—	3,405 3 4
Total	—	7,280 16 10	Total	—	7,280 16 10

PRESIDENCY OF DOMINICA.

Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December, 1898.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Money Order Accounts	—	180 14 11	Money Order Accounts	—	43 14 4
Sundry Creditors	—	1,018 16 11	Authorized Advances	—	157 0 0½
Deposit Account (Sundry)	—	232 17 6	Sundry Debtors	—	117 12 5½
Surplus and Deficit account (Surplus)	—	1,558 17 6½	Remittances in transit	—	22 8 8
			Treasurer (Cash)	—	2,650 11 4½
Total	—	2,991 6 10½	Total	—	2,991 6 10½

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1898.

PRESIDENCY OF MONTSERRAT.

Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December, 1898.

Liabilities.	—			Assets	—		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Crown Agents	722	4	3	Cash	157	6	11
Advances and Deposits received	538	0	4	Advances...	73	14	11
Money Orders	1,322	2	6	Drafts and Remittances	336	3	7
				Money Orders	34	17	7
				Excess of Liabilities	1,980	4	1
Total	2,582	7	1	Total	2,582	7	1

LEEWARD ISLANDS,
1898.

PRESIDENCY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December, 1898.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Crown Agents	—	31 3 10	Cash—In Treasury Chest	—	399 11 1¾
Advances and Deposits received ...	—	159 13 7	Advances	—	17 10 7½
Money Orders	—	178 0 5			
Unrepresented Estates	—	8 0 9	Excess of Liabilities...	—	24 1 9¾
Postmaster's Deposits	63 19 8				
Pro: Marshal's Deposits	5 4	64 5 0			
Total	—	441 3 7	Total	—	441 3 7

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, which on the 31st December 1897 stood at £335,621, was at the close of 1898 reduced to £300,121, the Imperial Government having repaid the following sums on behalf of the loans of the undermentioned Presidencies, namely—Antigua £13,000, St. Kitts-Nevis £15,000 and Montserrat £7,000. A floating debt of the Virgin Islands, in the shape of an overdraft on the Crown Agents amounting to £2,250, was also paid off by the Imperial Government.

In addition to these repayments of debts from Parliamentary grants, the following payments were also made from revenue in redemption of loans, namely, Antigua Savings Bank £200, Montserrat Water Works Loan (1897) £100, Public Works Loan (1891) £200.

The Dominica Water Works Loan of £5,900 (the sinking fund of which, £5,046, is nearly sufficient to repay it) appears in the statement of Public Debt given below, although this loan has now been assumed by the Town Board of Roseau and is regarded as a liability of the Municipality.

The following table shows the individual liability of the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica and Montserrat, with a column showing the amount at the credit of the various Sinking Fund Accounts on the 31st December 1898 :—

Presidency.	Debt.	To Credit of Sinking Fund.
	£	£
Antigua	137,471	17,460
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	74,450	4,466
Dominica	70,900	10,028
Montserrat ...	17,300	616
Total ...	300,121	32,570

Leeward Islands, 1898.

(E.) CURRENCY.

Under this head there appears to be nothing to be remarked. The Bank rates of Exchange remained unaltered.

(F.) COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES.

The Town Board of Roseau in Dominica is at present the only existing municipality in the Colony. An Ordinance has, however, been passed providing for the creation of a City Board for St. Johns in Antigua, which will be established during the year 1899.

The Roseau Town Board was established in June 1896, and its revenue and expenditure has been as follows:—

1896.—	Revenue,	£754	Expenditure,	£714.
1897.—	„	£929	„	£925.
1898.—	„	£978	„	£964.

(G.) DEBTS OF MUNICIPALITIES.

The only debt of the Roseau Town Board is the amount of the Water Works Loan, £5,900, towards which a sinking fund had been accumulated at the end of 1898 of £5,046, as mentioned above. Annual contributions of £147 towards the final extinction of the debt are made from the general revenue of the Board.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports.

The aggregate value of the imports during the year under review (exclusive of internal trade between the various Presidencies) was £299,976, as against £312,657 for the year 1897, being a decrease of £12,681.

The following table shows the total value of imports for each of the past five years, distinguishing the countries from which the imports were made, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1898 in comparison with the previous year:—

TOTAL IMPORTS.

Country whence imported.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897	1898	Increase 1898 over 1897.	Decrease 1898 under 1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	206,920	163,376	178,917	133,497	134,071	574	—
British Colonies	47,951	56,050	57,949	41,694	41,308	—	386
United States of America...	161,594	162,191	149,982	124,064	113,864	—	10,200
Other Foreign Countries	14,243	15,505	15,350	13,402	10,733	—	2,669
Total	430,708	397,122	402,198	312,657	299,976	574	13,255

Net decrease in value of Imports in 1898, as compared with 1897, £12,681

The returns of internal trade between the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands show a total value of goods exchanged or imported of £12,119, as against £13,096 in 1897.

The table last given shows that while there was a slight increase in the value of goods imported from the United Kingdom in 1898 as compared with 1897, there was a falling off in the value of imports from all other places. It is possible that the Spanish-American war may have affected the imports from the United States during certain months to some extent.

The following summary of imports gives the aggregate values of the various classes of articles or goods imported during each of the last five years, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1898 as compared with 1897. The only classes of imports which show an increase are live animals and foodstuffs, while the largest decrease in imports is shown in the various classes of manufactured articles and in liquors.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1898

SUMMARY OF IMPORTS.

Articles.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	Increase 1898 over 1897.	Decrease 1898 under 1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Live Animals	3,925	2.189	2 649	979	2,425	1,446	—
Foodstuffs	164,490	170,931	158,378	132,320	132,728	408	—
Drinks	17,262	16,550	13,993	11,443	9,375	—	2,068
Narcotics	3,893	3,661	3,792	3,722	3,142	—	580
Raw Materials	17,165	14,063	16,953	9,947	8,310	—	1,637
Manufactured Articles, Textile	95,816	82,457	91,376	67,688	62,872	—	4,816
Do. Metal	25,130	19,712	20,873	16,912	13,081	—	3,831
Other Manufactures	95,944	87,559	92,684	69,540	63,448	—	6,092
	423,625	397,122	400,698	312,551	295,381	1,854	19,024
Coin and Bullion	7,083	—	1,500	106	4,595	4,489	—
Total	430,708	397,122	402,198	312,657	299,976	6,343	19,024

EXPORTS.

The aggregate value of the exports during the year 1898 (exclusive of the internal trade between the Presidencies) was £286,403, as compared with £328,496 in 1897, showing a net decrease of £42,093.

The following table gives the total value of exports during each of the last five years, distinguishing the countries to which the various articles of export were sent, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1898, as compared with 1897. It will be observed that while there was an increase of £12,981 in the value of exports to the United Kingdom, there was a large decrease of £44,802 in the value of exports to the United States (due to the short sugar crop), while the value of exports to British Colonies also shows a decrease of £10,850.

TOTAL EXPORTS.

Countries to which exported.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	Increase 1898 over 1897.	Decrease 1898 under 1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	32,679	48,708	44,703	49,582	62,563	12,981	—
British Colonies	74,996	56,022	54,027	38,925	28,075	—	10,850
United States of America...	305,748	142,826	196,141	223,150	178,348	—	44,802
Other Foreign Countries	26,125	20,266	21,639	16 839	17,417	578	—
Total	439,548	267,822	316,510	328,496	286,403	13,559	55,652

Net decrease in value of exports in 1898, as compared with 1897, £42,093.

The export trade between the various Presidencies comprising the Colony shows a decrease of £5,001, the figures being £6,421 in 1898, as against £11,422 in 1897.

The following table shows the value of the principal articles of export during each of the last five years, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1898 as compared with 1897:—

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

Articles of Export.		1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.		1898.		Increase 1898 over 1897.		Decrease 1898 under 1897.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£		£		£		£		£		£		£
Sugar ...	Tons	33,155	345,810	27,592	173,652	32,498	228,612	28,555	236,209	20,065	174,098	—	—	8,490	62,111
Molasses	Tons	10,690	30,101	8,436	23,290	9,565	14,825	7,483	12,506	4,204	8,595	—	—	3,275	3,911
Rum ...	Galls.	43,860	1,725	62,395	2,788	30,656	1,112	62,686	2,265	48,451	1,579	—	—	14,235	686
Coffee ...	lbs.	14,540	880	12,726	459	38,528	1,280	20,533	722	21,958	537	1,425	—	—	185
Cocoa ...	lbs.	635,478	8,655	617,836	8,444	944,349	12,823	593,680	9,007	1,112,862	26,362	519,182	17,355	—	—
Lime and Juice.	Lime	—	12,284	—	19,599	—	19,240	—	24,514	—	25,753	—	1,239	—	—
Total ...			399,455		228,232		277,892		285,223		236,924		18,594		66,893

Net decrease in value of above exports in 1898, as compared with 1897, £48,299.

From the above table it will be observed that the quantity of sugar exported was very considerably less in 1898 than in any of the four previous years, being nearly 9,000 tons less than in 1897, and considerably over 12,000 tons less than in 1896.

The average amount of sugar exported for the last five years is 28,373 tons, so that the quantity exported in 1898 was over 8,000 tons below the average.

On the other hand it is a matter for satisfaction to find that the quantity of cocoa exported, viz., 1,112,662 lbs., was nearly double the amount exported in 1897, which was 593,680 lbs., and was over 332,000 lbs. above the average of the last five years.

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES AND FISHERIES.

There is in Dominica one sulphur mine at Souffriere, and there are also mines in Virgin Gorda, none of which are at present worked. There is some prospect, however, of the latter being again worked for molybdenum.

Sugar is manufactured in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica and Montserrat, lime juice in Dominica and Montserrat, bay oil in Dominica, and arrowroot in Montserrat.

There are no organized fisheries.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

The estimated acreage of cultivated land is 16,481 acres in Antigua, 18,654 acres in St. Kitts and Nevis, 8,691 acres in Dominica, 8,000 acres in Montserrat. Of this the cultivation in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis is almost entirely that of sugar, while in Dominica and Montserrat cocoa, lime juice, and coffee are also grown.

Much is hoped for from the establishment by the Imperial Government of an Agricultural and Botanical Department for the West Indies.

(D.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

No land grants have been made in recent years, and the general value of land varies so greatly in different Presidencies, and according to its suitability for sugar or other cultivation, that it is almost impossible to obtain reliable statistics as to value. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane land may be taken at the present moment to range between £4 and £8 per acre.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1898.

(E.) SHIPPING.

The following table shows the total tonnage of both steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1898, distinguishing between British and Foreign vessels :—

Island.	British.		Foreign.		Total Tonnage.	
	Steam Vessels entered and cleared.	Sailing Vessels entered and cleared.	Steam Vessels entered and cleared.	Sailing Vessels entered and cleared.	Steam.	Sailing.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua ...	409,122	13,612	—	6,434	409,122	20,046
St. Kitts ... Nevis ... Anguilla...	453,392	24,813	10,800	12,873	464,192	37,686
Dominica ...	443,252	7,884	4,072	1,790	447,324	9,674
Montserrat ...	199,102	8,602	—	726	199,102	9,328
Virgin Islands	—	10,533	—	774	—	11,307
Total ...	1,504,868	65,444	14,872	22,597	1,519,740	88,041

Comparing the above figures with those of 1897, it appears that there was in 1898 a total increase of 35,560 tons in steam vessels. If we examine the figures for each individual Presidency with those of 1897, it will be found that in Antigua there was a decrease of 12,758 in steam tonnage and of 4,022 in sailing tonnage, and in Montserrat a decrease of 15,042 tons in steam vessels and of 5,243 tons in sailing vessels, while St. Kitts-Nevis shows an increase of 11,112 tons in steam vessels and a slight decrease in sailing vessels.

When, however, we come to Dominica, it is satisfactory to find that there was in 1898 a very large increase of 52,244 in the tonnage of steam vessels visiting the Island, while there is a decrease of 2,706 tons in the sailing craft entered and cleared.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1898.

The following table shows the total of vessels entered and cleared in each Presidency during each of the last five years, including both steam and sailing vessels :—

Total Tonnage.

—	1894.	1895.	*1896.	1897.	1898.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua ...	501,886	467,978	468,612	445,948	429,168
St. Kitts-Nevis	507,627	478,132	473,407	491,629	501,878
Dominica ...	424,896	360,954	401,051	407,460	456,998
Montserrat ...	427,575	372,471	276,272	228,715	208,430
Virgin Islands ...	21,699	16,534	11,924	11,545	11,307
Total of Colony	1,883,683	1,726,069	1,631,266	1,585,297	1,607,781

* In June 1896, the contract under which the Federal Steamship "Tyne" was run by the Royal Mail Company between the various Islands of the Colony expired, and was not renewed.

III.—LEGISLATION.

During the year 1898 important constitutional changes took place in the Presidencies of Antigua and Dominica.

On the 22nd March 1898, the Legislature of Antigua passed an Act abrogating the semi-elective constitution which has existed since 1866, and reducing the number of members of the Legislative Council from 24 to 16, eight officials and eight unofficials, the latter being now all nominated by the Governor.

Similarly, on the 12th July, the Legislative Assembly of Dominica passed an Act of the same nature providing for a Legislative Council of 12 members, six officials and six unofficials, all

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1898.

the latter being nominated by the Governor, in place of the former constitution under which there were 14 members, seven of whom were nominated by the Governor and seven elected by small constituencies.

The necessity for these changes has long been evident in these two Presidencies, where the constituencies of many of the elective districts consisted of less than half a dozen resident proprietors, and as it has not been considered advisable at present to lower the franchise, the alternative system of nomination of representatives appeared desirable.

The Crown Colony system is therefore now in operation in each Presidency of the Colony.

Looking at the legislation of the various Presidencies and of the Federal Legislature, we find that the most important Act passed by the latter was No. 4 of 1898, "An Act to amend the Post Office Act, 1886," under which a system of penny postage was inaugurated between this Colony and the United Kingdom and a large number of British Possessions in various parts of the Empire.

A much needed Act was also passed (No. 12 of 1898) regulating the allowances of public officers when travelling on duty.

Of the ten enactments passed by the Legislature of Antigua the most important, besides the amendment of the constitution, referred to above, was Ordinance No. 5 of 1898, "An Ordinance to provide for the government of the City of Saint John," which was assented to by the Governor on the 17th November.

This Ordinance provides the machinery for the establishment of municipal government in the city of St. John. The Town Board is to consist of 12 members, six elected by the taxpayers and six nominated by the Governor. The electoral qualifications are:—

(1) The possession of lands or houses in the city to the value of £40; or

(2) Occupation of house of rental value of £12 per annum; or

(3) Receipt of income of £40.

The Board will have all the powers usually exercised by Municipal Councils, and will be competent to levy rates and taxes for the improvement, sanitation, water supply, &c., of the city.

The Ordinances reducing the land tax and imposing additional duties on spirits (except rum) have been already referred to under the head of changes in taxation.

Eighteen Ordinances were passed during the year by the Legislature of St. Christopher-Nevis, of which perhaps the most important was No. 9, "An Ordinance for the Regulation of Watercourses," besides the Ordinances providing for the reduction of the land tax and the remission of export duties already referred to under the head of changes in taxation.

In the Presidency of Dominica six enactments were passed, none of which call for any special notice, except the Constitution Amendment Act and the Ordinance for the remission of export duties, which have been already referred to.

In Montserrat two Ordinances of some importance were passed, viz., "An Ordinance for the Construction and Abbreviation of Laws," which, among other provisions, confers on the Commissioner, in the absence of the Governor from the Presidency, certain powers of the Governor, and "An Ordinance to establish a Defence Force," which latter, however, has not been brought into operation.

Of the three Ordinances passed in the Presidency of the Virgin Islands, two were the usual formal Supply Ordinances, and the third an Ordinance for the notification of diseases, which, however, requires amendment.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The attendance at the elementary schools, which had slightly decreased in 1897, shows a small increase in 1898, the numbers on the roll being 25,122 in the latter year as against 25,022 in 1897. The average attendance, however, has fallen off, the figures being 11,745 as against 12,438 in 1897.

In consequence of the unsatisfactory financial position of the Colony it was found necessary to curtail the school grants by 25 per cent. in the Presidency of Antigua, and a similar step was also found necessary in St. Kitts-Nevis.

The amount received from school fees was also slightly less in 1898 than in 1897, while there was a small increase in the voluntary contributions.

The total amounts of the Government grants paid were respectively £7,090 3*s.* 3*d.* in 1897 and £6,223 7*s.* 11*d.* in 1898, and the total amount expended on education (including revenue derived from fees and voluntary contributions) was £7,015 7*s.* 10*d.* in 1898 as against £7,964 17*s.* 0*d.* in 1897.

It is proposed by the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, that some provision be made out of the Parliamentary Grant in aid of the Imperial Department of

Agriculture for encouraging a system of practical agricultural instruction in elementary schools, plots of land being attached to certain schools for this purpose.

Provision has hitherto been made by a Federal law for a special grant of £200 to the Mico Institution for the training of male teachers of primary schools, and an annual grant of £200 is also made from Federal funds for the training of female teachers at the Moravian College at Spring Gardens, Antigua.

(B.) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The only secondary schools in the Colony besides the two already mentioned (which, as they are employed solely to provide teachers for elementary schools, have been included under the head of primary education) are the Antigua Grammar School for Boys, with 47 boys, which receives a grant of £200 per annum from Antigua funds, and the Antigua Girls' High School, with 33 pupils, which receives a grant of £100 from the same source.

There is also a Government Grammar School in Dominica.

Centres for Cambridge Local Examinations have for some years been established in Antigua and Dominica. Periodical examinations are also held in Antigua for the various degrees in Arts of the University of London.

(C.) INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL, OR AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

In the Skerretts (Boys) Training School the number of boys received is now limited to 100, and there were actually 99 inmates of the school on the 31st December 1898, of whom 68 were natives of the Presidency of Antigua, 26 of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis (including Anguilla), and 6 of the Presidency of Montserrat.

The Girls' Training School at Scotts Hill was closed early in the year 1898, as a measure of economy.

At the Skerretts Government Farm, which is worked by the boys in the Industrial School in connection with the school, the experimental cultivation of several varieties of sugar cane was carried on, but owing to the absence of any analytical chemist, the scientific results could not be worked out and published as in former years.

The total expenditure on the stock farm and estate was £473 6*s.* 2*d.*, while the receipts from the farm amounted to £336 12*s.* 1*d.*

The value of the stock was estimated at the end of the year at £1,371.

During the year 1898 there was a considerable mortality amongst the cattle, owing to an outbreak of skin disease, and the want of a proper supply of water was much felt.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

The following table shows, in a summarized form, the number of patients admitted in 1898 into the various hospitals throughout the Colony, the numbers discharged from these institutions, and the number of deaths which took place.

It may be remarked that owing to a long drought, which prevailed during the first six months of the year, much distress, and even actual starvation, existed amongst the labouring classes in the Presidency of Antigua.

Hospital.	Number in Hospital on 1st January 1898.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua	160	1,646	224	1,098	—	327
Cunningham, St. Kitts	112	847	474	210	70	96
*Pogson (closed) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevis	25	110	38	30	5	34
Dominica	43	494	369	57	3	44
Montserrat (Chateau)	59	77	36	36	17	—
" (Hospital)	1	49	25	22	—	2
*Virgin Islands (closed)	—	—	—	—	—	—

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* These hospitals were closed during the year owing to the financial condition of the Colony.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1898.

(B.) LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

The following table gives the statistics of the Lunatic Asylums for the year :—

Asylum.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1898.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Rat Island	64	26	10	5	1	10
Ridge	35	6	—	—	—	2

LEPER ASYLUMS.

Asylum.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1898.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua	31	8	—	—	—	3
St. Kitts	60	11	—	—	—	6

(C.) POOR HOUSES.

In Antigua there were in the Poor House on 1st January 87 inmates. During the year 1898, 64 were admitted, 30 died and 39 were discharged.

The number of persons in Antigua who received poor relief was 1,165, the total amount spent being £780 14*s*. 10*d*. Owing to a severe drought and consequent failure of provision crops exceptional distress prevailed during several months in 1898. A soup-kitchen was established and carried on by private subscription for some months.

(D.) REFORMATORIES.

(*See under* Education—Training Schools.)

(E.) SAVINGS BANKS.

Savings Banks have been established in all the Presidencies except that of the Virgin Islands. The total amount at the credit of depositors in the Colony on the 31st December last was £55,846 4*s.* 1*d.* The amount deposited during the year was £21,008 3*s.* 7*d.*, as against withdrawals amounting to £19,542 19*s.* 4*d.*, while the number of depositors on the 31st December was 2,491.

The amount of funds invested on behalf of the Savings Banks is upwards of £55,000.

(VI.) JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The police force of the Leeward Islands numbered on the 31st December last a total strength of 183, including an inspector-general, 3 inspectors, 3 sergeant-majors, 29 non-commissioned officers, and 150 privates. Of these, 1 inspector, 1 sergeant-major, 6 sergeants, 5 corporals, and 45 privates are stationed in Antigua; 1 inspector, 1 sergeant-major, 4 sergeants, 3 corporals, and 53 privates in St. Kitts-Nevis; 1 inspector, 1 sergeant, 3 corporals, and 30 privates in Dominica, and 1 sergeant-major, 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, and 12 privates in Montserrat (since the end of last year the detachment in Montserrat has been increased in strength).

There are also 6 mounted police and 5 harbour police in Antigua, while 1 private is stationed in the Virgin Islands.

(B.) PRISONS.

The total number of prisoners received during the year 1898 in the gaols of the various Presidencies was 1,957. Of this number the approximate proportion of male prisoners amounted to 61¼ per cent., of female prisoners to 37¼ per cent., and of juveniles to 1½ per cent.

The number of deaths which occurred in Antigua among the prisoners was 5, three of whom died in the hospital, to which they had been transferred, and 2 in the prison. Of the latter, one prisoner died of apoplexy, and one from hæmorrhage from the

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1898.

bowels. Of the three prisoners who died after transfer to the hospital, the cause of death in one case was chronic fistula, and uræmic poisoning, in another case diarrhœa, and the third was due to acute enteritis, produced by eating peppers, found growing near the gaol.

The following table shows the number of cases treated by the prison surgeon during the year 1898, with the complaint in each case:—

Disease or Complaint.	1897.		1898.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Skin diseases	18	4	8	2
Gastro-intestinal dyspepsia, diarrhœa, dysentery.	173	11	125	8
Lung — Phthisis, bronchitis, pneumonia, pleurisy.	83	12	49	4
Heart disease	13	0	6	2
Apoplexy	1	0	1	0
Debility...	27	2	14	3
Hernia	5	0	8	0
Eye diseases	11	0	9	2
Genito-urinary...	28	8	16	4
Rheumatism and neuralgia	83	12	44	4
Epistaxis	1	0	0	0
Elephantiasis	2	0	2	1
Fevers—Malarial, typhoid, &c. ...	43	6	30	7
Abscess	15	2	2	0
Headaches	6	0	20	4
Slight injuries	24	5	6	0
Malingering	132	2	80	0
Total	665	64	420	41

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The following table shows the total number of offences reported to the police during each of the last five years, together with the convictions and acquittals in each year, from which it appears that there has been a steady diminution of crime during the last four years, while the number of offences reported during the year 1898 was the smallest during the five years.

Years.	Offences reported.	Convictions.	Acquittals.
1894 ...	17,538	8,628	8,904
1895 ...	18,282	7,479	8,921
1896 ...	15,128	5,962	8,959
1897 ...	13,261	5,837	7,258
1898 ...	12,813	5,613	7,105

Of the 12,813 offences reported during 1898, 2,993 were offences against the person, 1,241 prædial larceny, 1,633 were offences against property (other than prædial larceny), while the remaining 6,946 comprised all other offences.

Summary convictions were recorded against 5,526 persons in the Magistrates' Courts, the number of persons convicted by the Superior Courts being 87.

In the Magistrates' Courts 6,947 persons were acquitted, while the number acquitted in the Superior Courts was 67, and a *nolle prosequi* was entered in 89 cases.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The aggregate returns from the Registrars of the various Presidencies show a total for the Colony of 5,057 births, 3,601 deaths, and 455 marriages. The census of 1891 gave a total population for the Colony of 127,723, and adding on the number of births in excess of deaths between the date of the census and the 31st December 1898, we obtain as the present population of the Colony an apparent total of 139,519, but in the absence of statistics of emigration and immigration, the above total cannot be considered reliable. Owing to want of work, numbers of men have left for other Colonies in search of employment.

The following summary shows the population of each Island of the Colony at the end of 1898 (subject to the differences caused by immigration and emigration above referred to) together with the births, deaths, and marriages in each case during the past year.

As usual the births are largely in excess of the deaths.

ISLAND.	Population on 31st December 1898.	Births.	Deaths.	Increase.	Marriages.
Antigua ...	37,581	1,404	1,225	179	138
Barbuda ...	683	35	30	5	3
St. Kitts ...	33,159	1,227	801	336	122
Nevis	14,859	647	447	200	45
Anguilla ...	4,263	133	79	54	6
Dominica ...	29,886	902	530	372	81
Montserrat ...	13,756	528	281	247	43
Virgin Islands ...	5,332	181	118	63	17
Total ...	139,519	5,057	3,601	1,456	455

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The following table shows the death-rate of the Colony per 1,000 during the past three years. It will be seen that the death-rate in 1898 was 2·52 per 1,000 in excess of that of 1897:—

Year.	Population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1896 ...	136,034	3,404	25·02
1897 ...	138,069	3,215	23·29
1898 ...	139,519	3,601	25·81

(C.) SANITATION.

Sanitary Boards exists in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat, by which provision is made for the enforcement of the usual sanitary regulations. In the town of St. John's, Antigua, the dry earth privy system, with frequent removal of excreta, has been introduced, and is gradually being extended. The villages are kept clear of weeds. In the Presidencies of St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat there is an abundant supply of good water carried by pipes to the towns. In Antigua, while the town of St. John's has a fair water supply, the country villages are exceedingly badly supplied with water by ponds, which can only be cleaned out in very dry weather.

(D.) CLIMATE.

(1.) *Rainfall.*

The average of the rainfall recorded at 66 stations in Antigua during the year 1898 was 48·85 inches. The average rainfall during the past 25 years was 45·94 inches, so that last year's rainfall was 2·78 inches above the annual average. Although the rainfall was on the whole above the average, however, a protracted drought occurred during the first half of the year, only 14 inches falling up to the end of June.

In St. Kitts the rainfall at Laguerite was 55·51 inches.

In Dominica the average rainfall recorded at 15 stations was 108·73 inches. Of these 15 stations, the average rainfall at 10 stations on the leeward side of the Island was 105·42 inches, while the average for 5 stations on the windward slopes was 115·33 inches.

In Montserrat the average rainfall at 6 stations was 68·81 inches.

(2.) *Temperature.*

In Antigua the shade temperature in St. John's varied during the year from 90·5 in September and October to 67 in February, the average readings for the year being 81·8 at 9 a.m. and 84·4 at 3 p.m.

In St. Kitts the maximum temperature at Laguerite was 90 in September, and the minimum 70 in January, while the average readings were 81·34 at 9 a.m. and 83·16 at 3 p.m.

In Montserrat, at Elberton (400 feet above sea level), the maximum recorded was 91 in May and the minimum 66 in December and February (readings taken at 9 a.m.), the average temperature being 79·4.

Direction and Force of Wind.

The prevailing direction of the wind in the Leeward Islands is east, with occasional variations to north-east and east-north-east, with an average velocity varying from 7·76 miles per hour in St. John's, Antigua, to 9·79 at Laguerite, St. Kitts.

Trade winds blow during the greater part of the year, but during the months of July, August, September and October the wind is usually light and variable, these being, however, the months during which hurricanes most frequently occur.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Comparing the amount of postal matter of all kinds received and despatched in the Colony during the year 1898 with the figures for 1897, we find that there was an increase of 13,510 in the number of letters received and sent, of 3,811 papers and books, while the number of parcels shows an increase of 626.

The total value of money orders issued in the Colony was £28,409 as compared with £20,191 in 1897, while the value of orders cashed in the Colony amounted to only £9,519 as against £29,039 in 1897.

The telegraph rates were reduced during the past year, the rate per word between this Colony and the United Kingdom being now 4*s.* 7½*d.* per word, while the rate for Government messages has been reduced to 3*s.* 1½*d.* per word.

Telephone systems are in operation in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts, there being in the former Island 275 miles of wire and 147 instruments in use, while the latter has 204 miles of wire and 78 instruments.

The expenditure in Antigua on the telephone system was £909 and the receipts were £720.

In St. Kitts the expenditure was £539 and the receipts £334.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

(A.) REGULAR FORCES.

None.

(B.) MILITIA.

None.

(C.) VOLUNTEERS.

Volunteer Defence Forces have been established in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis.

In Antigua the St. John's Infantry Company (armed with Martini-Enfield rifles) numbered, on the 31st December, 54 officers and men, and is increasing in strength.

A mounted infantry company is also in course of formation in Antigua.

In St. Kitts-Nevis a Volunteer Defence Force has been established since 1896, numbering 184 officers and men, armed with Martini-Enfield rifles. Of these, 66 are mounted infantry and 105 are infantry, with 10 officers and three medical officers.

The expenditure in Antigua on the defence force was in 1898 £1,018 (including all expenses consequent on the formation of the corps, salary of drill instructor, and amount of capitation grant drawn).

The expenditure on the St. Kitts-Nevis Defence Force was £835 in 1898. The arms are on loan from the Imperial Government.

(D.) CONSTABULARY OR SEMI-MILITARY COLONIAL FORCE.

None.

The police are armed with Martini-Enfield rifles.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

No events of importance arrest our attention when reviewing the course of the year 1898. The Colony was mercifully spared the ruin and desolation brought upon several other Islands by the disastrous hurricane of the 11th and 12th September, which will long be remembered in Saint Vincent and Barbados and by Saint Lucia. The track of this cyclone just touched Anguilla and Barbuda, in which Islands some damage was done to houses, but no loss of life occurred.

The difficulty of finding work in the larger Islands induced many of the more able-bodied men to seek employment elsewhere. A large number left for the newly acquired American dependencies of Porto Rico and Cuba after the war, where, owing to the laws prohibiting the landing of pauper immigrants, they were in most cases not permitted to land.

No public works of any importance were carried out during the year, the financial condition of most of the Presidencies requiring the strictest economy.

The Presidencies of Antigua and Dominica passed Acts abrogating their former semi-elective Constitutions, and providing for legislative bodies nominated by the Crown; and each Presidency of the Colony now possesses the Crown Colony form of Government, the Federal Legislature being, as before, partly nominated and partly elected by the unofficial members of the various local Legislatures.

The future prospects of trade in the larger Islands are, and must always be, dependent on the success and development of the staple industry, sugar, and it is hoped that the efforts which are being made by the Imperial Government to promote the establishment of central factories will speedily result in action being taken in this direction.

The climate of the Leeward Islands is, generally speaking, a healthy one for Europeans, although during the hot months occasional sporadic outbreaks of malignant fever occur; but there are few openings for white labour at the present time.

A projected road across the interior of Dominica, from the Leeward to the Windward Coast, which will traverse a large area of rich Crown lands, should be the means of opening up a portion of that Island to the profitable employment of capital in the cultivation of cocoa and other products.

The establishment, in October last, of an Imperial West Indian Department of Agriculture, presided over by Dr. D. Morris, C.M.G., with an efficient staff, including curators of botanic stations and agricultural instructors in the various Islands, gives a guarantee that the capacity of these Islands to support remunerative agricultural industries will be thoroughly tested. The expenditure on this large undertaking, which it is hoped may result in stimulating productive labour and cultivation in many of the smaller Islands, now suffering from apathy and depression and from the want of means of sending their produce to any market, has been generously guaranteed for some years by the Imperial Parliament, to which these struggling Colonies owe a grateful acknowledgment.

GEO. MELVILLE,

Colonial Secretary.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 308.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1899.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 266.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
December 1900.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
278	British Honduras	1898
279	Mauritius and Rodrigues	”
280	Grenada	”
281	St. Vincent	”
282	Hong Kong	”
283	Jamaica	1898–99
284	Lagos	1898
285	Seychelles	”
286	Christmas and Cocos-Keeling Islands ...	1899
287	Straits Settlements	1898
288	Basutoland	1898–99
289	Niger Coast Protectorate	”
290	British Guiana	1897–98 & 1898–99
291	Falkland Islands	1899
292	British New Guinea	1898–99
293	Bermuda	1899
294	Barbados	”
295	Malta	”
296	Fiji	”
297	Turks and Caicos Islands	”
298	Bahamas...	”
299	Sierra Leone	”
300	Gambia	”
301	Seychelles	”
302	Mauritius and Rodrigues	”
303	Trinidad and Tobago...	”
304	Straits Settlements	”
305	Gibraltar	”
306	Gold Coast	”
307	Ceylon	”

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
14	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.

No. 308.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1899.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 266.)

GOVERNOR SIR F. FLEMING to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Antigua,
17th July, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a letter from the Colonial Secretary enclosing the Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1899.

2. In this Report the arrangement of headings and subjects as given in the outlines of a Model Report on the Annual Blue Book, forwarded in your Circular Despatch of the 31st of January, 1899, has been followed as far as possible.

REVENUE.

3. It is satisfactory to find that there has been an increase of Revenue in each of the Presidencies over that of 1898, although, as pointed out in the Report, the increase in Montserrat was caused by customs duties being paid on abnormal importations of foodstuffs, consequent on the hurricane which visited that Island in August, 1899, while that of the Virgin Islands was due to a new issue of postage stamps, which, when first issued, were sold in large quantities.

EXPENDITURE.

4. There was a decrease of Expenditure in Antigua of £3,627 when compared with the previous year, while the Expenditure of the other Presidencies somewhat increased.

Bearing in mind the financial condition of this Colony, I have not failed to do my utmost in keeping down expenditure as far as possible, but ravages caused by hurricanes, short crops of sugar, and droughts which from time to time occur in the several islands under this Government, render this task a very difficult one to accomplish with any satisfaction.

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AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

5. I sincerely trust that the establishment of agricultural industries and botanical stations, towards which the Imperial Government have liberally contributed, and which are under the careful supervision of the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies and the officers of his Department, will prove of real benefit to these communities. It still remains to be seen how far the institution of agricultural schools and the other steps which have been taken to encourage agricultural training will prove of real success, but it is the duty of the Government of these Presidencies and of the people generally to co-operate to the best of their power with that Department which is, in many respects, so capable of affording them valuable assistance.

EDUCATION.

6. It is a matter for much regret that although secondary schools, in the shape of grammar schools, exist in Antigua and Dominica there is no secondary school in St. Kitts-Nevis, the grammar school there having been closed a few years ago. It has been suggested that a secondary school might be combined with an agricultural school, which it is proposed to establish in the Presidency. If this could be brought about, it would, no doubt, be in the interest of the people of that Presidency.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

7. I regret to say that the condition of the Lunatic Asylum in Antigua, which is an asylum for the whole Colony, is anything but satisfactory. To enlarge and improve it, and to render it more suitable for the unfortunate inmates who are confined within its walls, are steps that should be taken so soon as circumstances will permit.

POPULATION.

8. What is remarked under this heading in the Report, viz., that owing to want of work numbers of men have left for other colonies in search of employment, is unfortunately too true. My attention has been seriously directed to this in regard to St. Kitts-Nevis, and I am at the present moment considering what can be done to prevent what, in the event of a large sugar crop being produced, may prove a serious misfortune for the planting body. I trust that Government may be able to do something in this matter, but some steps should be taken by the planters themselves to induce labourers to remain in their own country, which, I believe, they have no real wish to quit if they can help it. In the absence, however, of employment and with miserably low wages it is not surprising that they wish to better themselves by migrating elsewhere.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

9. Attention is drawn in the concluding paragraphs of the Report to the terrible hurricane which swept over Montserrat and Nevis in August of last year; this was followed by a second hurricane early in September, which did serious injury to the island of Anguilla, a dependency of St. Kitts-Nevis, and which very materially damaged the sugar crops in St. Kitts and Nevis.

10. The remarks in the Report on the results of the introduction of penny postage to the United Kingdom and British Colonies are very satisfactory, confirming, as they do, opinions I ventured to express when the system first came into force. The number of letters posted in the Colony, as stated in the Report, has increased by nearly one-third, while the loss of revenue from the sale of postage stamps at a less face value has been nearly compensated by the increased sale of stamps.

11. I entirely endorse the observations made in regard to the establishment of central sugar factories. I have never hesitated to express my opinion that the establishment of such factories seems to be the sole hope of most of the islands belonging to this group. At the present time fair prices are being given in the American market for such sugars as are manufactured here. What with this fact and the countervailing duties placed by the United States Government on bounty-fed sugars, the sugars of these islands have reasonable facilities for entering the United States.

12. How long the fiscal policy of that country will continue as it now is must be a question of uncertainty, and if the West Indian islands under this Government had not the American market to fall back upon it is difficult to see what, under present circumstances, they could do.

13. But even with this in their favour it is well known that by reason of the old-fashioned machinery which is still in use for sugar making, something between 40 and 50 per cent. of saccharine matter is now wasted, a great portion of which, with proper machinery, could be saved.

14. If central factories were established, sugars saleable in the European markets could be manufactured, and the amount produced could be nearly doubled.

15. It is said, however, that capitalists are not disposed to embark their money in the sugar enterprise so long as the uncertainties connected with the bounty system continue. This may be, and probably is, true, and it is therefore to be hoped that every discouragement will be given to a system which is generally considered to be unfair to the British producer.

16. It may be difficult to prophesy how far the abolition of

that system will materially affect the actual price of sugars exported from these islands, and it cannot be expected, in these days of keen competition, that the West Indian Colonies will again see the prosperity they experienced in the past. But there will always be a demand for sugars, and the best sugars will, naturally, fetch the best prices. If, then, these islands were afforded a fair opportunity of manufacturing sugars of such quality and quantity as they are undoubtedly capable of, I see no reason, more especially in presence of the many facilities, in the way of good soil and cheap labour, which they possess, why a period of reasonable prosperity should not return to them.

17. I cannot conclude my remarks, in forwarding the enclosed Report, without referring to the patriotic feelings which have been entertained by all classes of these communities towards the Mother Country in the trials she has lately gone through.

18. While regretting, as we all do, the many sad consequences of that struggle in which she has been engaged since the latter part of last year, it is some consolation to know how united have been her colonial subjects in extending to her sentiments of sympathy and goodwill, and in expressing their loyalty, devotion, and affection towards the Sovereign of the British Empire.

I have, &c.,

F. Fleming.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Antigua,
11th July, 1900.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1899, together with a Report on the results shown therein by Mr. Gordon, the Chief Clerk in this Office, to be transmitted by Your Excellency to the Secretary of State.

2. As the greater part of the compilation of the Blue Book was completed by Mr. Gordon before my return to the Colony from leave of absence at the beginning of May last, and as the compiler can alone properly write the Report on the results shown from the statistics for the year under review, I have, with your approval, thought it only just to Mr. Gordon, so that he may receive what credit may be given for his carefully prepared Report, to allow him to sign it for the Colonial Secretary.

3. While being arranged in the form directed in the Secretary of State's Circular Despatch of 31st January, 1898, the following interesting tables have been added:—

(1.) Table showing the export of sugar from each Presidency of the Colony during the last 10 years from 1890;

(2.) Table showing, under Education, the number of school children on the roll, the average attendance, and the amounts received from school fees, Government grant, and voluntary contributions for the last five years;

(3.) Under Postal, a table showing the very large increase in the amount of all kinds of postal matter received and despatched, especially during the past year; and

(4.) Under Criminal Statistics, a table showing the total number of offences reported to the police during each of the last five years.

4. The general results, as shown from the statistics of the Blue Book for 1899, may be taken on the whole as very satisfactory, notwithstanding the loss to life and property caused by the hurricanes of 7th August and 8th September last, and the consequent distress among the labouring classes which prevailed for some time after in the Islands of Montserrat, Nevis, Antigua, and St. Kitts, which distress, however, was so promptly and generously assisted, in particular, by Barbados, Trinidad, Demerara, St. Vincent, and other West Indian Colonies, by the Lord Mayor's Fund and, later, by the Imperial Hurricane Grant.

I have, &c.,

GEO. MELVILLE,

Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
SIR FRANCIS FLEMING, K.C.M.G.,
Governor-in-Chief, Leeward Islands, St. Kitts.

Leeward Islands, 1899.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1899.

In the following Report the arrangement of headings and subjects given in the suggested outlines of a Model Report on the Annual Blue Book, enclosed in the Secretary of State's Circular Despatch of the 31st January, 1899, has been adopted as far as possible.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Leeward Islands,
21st June, 1900.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.

The aggregate Revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the year 1899, exclusive of grants in aid from the Imperial Government, was £121,561, showing a net increase of £8,984 as compared with the Revenue of the previous year, which amounted to £112,577. It is satisfactory to find that in each Presidency there was in 1899 an increase of Revenue over 1898. In Montserrat, however, the increase was an artificial one, due to customs duties on abnormal importations of foodstuffs, &c., after the hurricane of the 7th August.

The following table shows the amount of revenue collected in each Presidency of the Colony during each of the last five years, showing also the increase or decrease in 1899 as compared with 1898 :—

Presidency.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	Increase 1899 over 1898.	Decrease 1899 under 1898.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	44,348	54,951	46,330	39,663	42,822	3,159	—
St. Kitts-Nevis	43,215	49,561	45,247	40,430	42,809	2,379	—
Dominica	22,860	24,904	23,610	24,570	26,156	1,586	—
Montserrat	7,125	7,775	7,906	6,199	6,790	591	—
Virgin Islands	1,534	1,469	1,675	1,715	2,984	1,269	—
Total	119,082	138,660	124,768	112,577	121,561	8,984	—

Net increase of revenue in 1899, as compared with 1898, £8,984.

The various heads of revenue in each Presidency will be found detailed in Section D of the Blue Book, and form a comparison of the receipts of 1899 with those of 1898. It appears that under the head of Customs there were, in the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat increases of £3,014, £299, £1,984, and £1,249 respectively, while there was in the Virgin Islands a decrease of £91.

The increase in Montserrat and St. Kitts-Nevis was due to large importations of foodstuffs and lumber subsequent to the hurricane of 7th August, which destroyed a great portion of the fruit trees and even root-crops in Montserrat and Nevis, and in Antigua to similar importations of lumber to repair and re-erect buildings in that Presidency.

Under the head of "Port and Harbour Dues" there was in 1899 an increase of £286 in Antigua, of £537 in St. Kitts-Nevis, of £316 in Dominica, of £82 in Montserrat, and of £16 in the Virgin Islands. The latter increase is curious, and is probably to be attributed to better collection of port dues, seeing that the customs duties of the Virgin Islands, both import and export, show a decrease as stated above.

The Presidencies of Antigua, Dominica, and Montserrat exhibit decreases of revenue under the head of "Excise," of £923, £922, and £215 respectively, while St. Kitts-Nevis shows a slight increase of £13.

Under the head of "Taxes" the revenues of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and the Virgin Islands show increases in 1899 over 1898 of £756, £1,443, and £42 respectively, while the receipts in Dominica were less by £65, and those in Montserrat by £478.

In Antigua the revenue from licences was less in 1899 than in 1898 by £57, and in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands there were similar decreases of £52 and £23 respectively. In St. Kitts-Nevis and Dominica, on the other hand, there were increases under this head of £521 in St. Kitts (due principally to the newly-imposed wheel-tax, which realised nearly £500) and of £45 in Dominica.

Under the head of "Post Office" there appears in Antigua a decrease of revenue of £79, in St. Kitts-Nevis of £74, and in Montserrat of £1, but when it is remembered that during the year the rates of postage to the United Kingdom and to British Colonies were reduced from 2½*d.* to 1*d.* per half-ounce, it will be seen that the reduction of postage rates has been nearly counterbalanced by a largely increased transmission of letters.

In the Virgin Islands a phenomenal increase of £1,474 appears under the head of Post Office, due to a special postal issue of stamps for that Presidency, which, on their first appearance, were sold in large quantities.

The other items of revenue call for no comment.

In addition to the revenue of Montserrat shown in the above table, a sum of £2,800 received from the Mansion House Hurricane Relief Fund and other subscriptions was credited for purposes of account to General Revenue, and appears in the table of Expenditure, which follows.

Expenditure.

The total Expenditure of the various Presidencies for the year 1899 was £143,285 as against £138,612 for the previous year, showing an increase of £4,673.

The following table shows the expenditure of each Presidency for each of the last five years, as well as the increase or decrease in 1899 as compared with 1898 :—

Presidency.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	Increase 1899 over 1898.	Decrease 1899 under 1898.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	70,221	57,345	53,417	55,586	51,959	—	3,627
St. Kitts-Nevis	55,395	56,501	51,775	44,659	47,415	2,756	—
Dominica	27,102	25,189	24,062	24,648	25,083	435	—
Montserrat	10,702	8,732	9,895	11,936	16,608	4,672	—
Virgin Islands	1,954	1,670	1,777	1,783	2,220	437	—
Total	165,374	149,437	140,926	138,612	143,285	8,300	3,627

Net increase of expenditure in 1899, as compared with 1898, £4,673.

A comparison of the items of expenditure in each Presidency during 1899 with those of the previous year, as given in section D of the Blue Book, shows that the principal increases which occurred are under the following heads:—

Police.—The expenditure under this head shows a total increase of £993, due to an increase of 20 men in the Montserrat division during the latter half of the year.

Hospitals.—An increase of £352 in all, there being increases of £283 in St. Kitts and £198 in Dominica, while the other Presidencies show decreases.

A large increase of £2,291 appears under the head of "Miscellaneous," which is accounted for by the expenditure in St. Kitts-Nevis being larger by £2,460 during the past year than in 1898, owing to the refund, in 1899, of a sum of £2,255 overpaid into the Treasury for Land Tax and Export Duty during the previous year before the decision to reduce these taxes for the year 1898 was received from the Secretary of State. In Montserrat there was an increase under this head of £359, due to extraordinary and unforeseen expenditure rendered necessary after the hurricane.

The largest increase in expenditure, however, occurred under the head of "Public Works Extraordinary," namely, £5,746. In this case the expenditure of £6,607 in the Presidency of Montserrat includes a sum of £2,800 received from the Mansion House Relief Fund and other subscriptions, which was expended in relief works of various descriptions.

Briefly summarised, the expenditure of Antigua shows a decrease in 1899 over the previous year of £3,627, while in St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands increases of £2,756, £435, £4,672, and £437 respectively occur. The last-mentioned increase of £437 (in the Virgin Islands) is mainly due to the payment of the cost of the dies for the new issue of postage stamps, already referred to under the head of "Revenue."

(B.) CHANGES IN TAXATION.

The following alterations were made in the taxation of the various Presidencies:—

In Antigua, the extra duties imposed on flour, bread and biscuits, and dried fish by Ordinance No. 6 of 1898 were removed by Ordinance No. 1 of 1899. An Income and Trade Tax was imposed by Ordinances 6 and 26 of 1899. The reduction of the tax on lands cultivated in sugar cane was again continued for the year commencing April 1st. In place of the old shooting

Leeward Islands, 1899.

licence, a gun licence was imposed by Ordinance No. 11, requiring registration of all firearms, with a tax of 2*s*. 6*d*. for keeping, and a further 2*s*. 6*d*. for using a gun, and an annual charge of 6*d*. for each additional weapon.

In St. Kitts-Nevis, Ordinance No. 1 of 1899 provided for the repayment of the Basseterre Improvement Loan, by imposing a tax of ¾ of 1 per cent. on the gross value of all houses of the value of £80 and upwards.

In Dominica the export taxes levied on products of the sugar cane were suspended for one year.

In Montserrat, the former Land and House Tax, which was assessed on the value of the properties, was replaced by a tax of 1*s*. an acre on cultivated and 6*d*. an acre on uncultivated lands, and of 5 per cent. on the rental value of houses.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Federal Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1899.

Liabilities.	—			Assets.	—		
	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
Presidencies	1,794	18	1	Presidencies :—			
Deposit Accounts :—				Virgin Islands	33	5	3
Land Assurance Fund	1,539	8	2	Money Order Accounts	926	5	0
Sundry Creditors	39	3	6	Investments Accounts :—			
Drafts	50	0	0	Land Assurance Fund	1,400	0	0
General Account	45	5	8	Sundry Debtors	416	3	11
				Remittances in Transit	300	0	0
				Cash	393	1	3
Total	3,468	15	5	Total	3,468	15	5

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1899.

PRESIDENCY OF ANTIGUA.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st December, 1899.

Liabilities.	— £	s.	d.	Assets.	— £	s.	d.
Deposit Account (Sundry)	489	0	6	Money Order Accounts	581	4	9
Sundry Creditors...	1,198	3	2½	Authorised Advances...	168	11	0
				London and Westminster Bank :—			
Drafts on Crown Agents	1,020	0	0	Deposits, General Revenue	5,044	8	0
Loan Works (Balance of Appropriation)	17,596	10	9	„ Public Works Loan	7,600	0	0
				Crown Agents' Current Account	1,295	18	11
				Treasurer	374	15	5½
					15,064	18	1½
				Excess of Liabilities	5,238	16	4
Total	20,303	14	5½	Total	20,303	14	5½

PRESIDENCY OF ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st December, 1899.

Liabilities.	— £	s.	d.	Assets.	— £	s.	d.
Sundry Creditors	244	19	9	Cash in Bank and in hand of Crown Agents ...	4,084	14	9
Deposit Accounts (Sundry)	1,012	13	5	Remittances in Transit	56	0	0
Public Works Loan, 1891	1,478	1	8	Sundry Debtors	1,360	13	4
" " " 1893	1,805	19	8	Money Order Account	1,752	19	8
Drafts on Crown Agents	2,500	0	0	General Post Office, London	17	7	5
Sinking Fund of the Basseterre Improvement Loan not yet invested.	580	14	2	G. H. Turner	50	0	0
					7,307	8	7
				Excess of Liabilities	315	0	1
Total	7,622	8	8	Total	7,622	8	8

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1899.

PRESIDENCY OF DOMINICA.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st December, 1899.

Liabilities.	—			Assets.	—		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Sundry Creditors	574	0	4½	Cash	1,942	0	0¼
Balance due to—				Remittances in Transit	80	3	3
				Advances paid on account of—			
General Post Office, London	4	18	9½	Her Majesty's Government (Imperial Grant)	336	8	3
Government of St. Vincent	1	9	6	Other authorised Advances	30	3	3
				Sundry Money Order Advances	133	19	1
Excess of Assets	3,505	10	0¼	Sundry Debtors	1,563	4	10
Total	4,085	18	8¼	Total	4,085	18	8¼

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1899.

PRESIDENCY OF MONTSERRAT.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st December, 1899.

Liabilities.	—			Assets.	—		
	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
Sundry Creditors	461	15	9	Cash	134	12	7
Money Order Accounts	1,984	13	7	Crown Agents	1,671	6	4
				Sundry Debtors...	243	8	2
				Money Order Accounts	148	12	6
				Excess of Liabilities	248	9	9
Total	2,446	9	4	Total	2,446	9	4

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1899.

PRESIDENCY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st December, 1899.

Liabilities.	—			Assets.	—		
	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
Crown Agents	37	1	7	Cash	941	19	11¼
General Government	33	5	3	General Post Office, London	97	1	0½
Presidency, St. Kitts-Nevis		1	0	Money Order Accounts	3	12	3
Money Order Accounts	224	11	7	Liberated Africans		19	1
Deposit Accounts	8	6	1				
Excess of Assets	740	6	9¾				
Total	1,043	12	3¾	Total	1,043	12	3¾

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, which, on the 31st December, 1898, stood at £300,121, was, at the close of 1899, reduced to £294,121, the Imperial Government having repaid the sum of £5,955 on behalf of the Water Works Loan of the Presidency of Montserrat.

By the disposal of the dredger "Pholas" the sum of £7,600 was replaced to the credit of the Antigua Public Works Loan, the balance of which is to be expended in a scheme of distribution, through the country districts, of the water from Wallings reservoir.

The Dominica Water Works Loan of £5,900 (the sinking fund of which, £5,389, is nearly sufficient to repay it) appears in the statement of Public Debt given below, although this loan has now been assumed by the Town Board of Roseau, and is regarded as a liability of the Municipality.

There is no Public Debt in the Virgin Islands.

The following table shows the individual liabilities of the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica and Montserrat, with a column showing the amounts at the credit of the various Sinking Fund Accounts on the 31st December 1899 :—

Presidency.	Debt.	To Credit of Sinking Fund.
	£	£
Antigua	137,271	19,606
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	74,450	5,286
Dominica	70,900	11,217
Montserrat ...	11,500	789
Total ...	294,121	36,898

(E.) CURRENCY.

Under this head there appears to be nothing to be remarked. The bank rates of exchange remained unaltered.

(F.) COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES.

The St. John's City Board of Antigua was established during the year 1899, the members being partly elected and partly nominated by the Governor. The first elections were held in May. The Board was occupied during the year in framing and passing bye-laws dealing with the various public institutions, which came into force on the 1st January, 1900, on which date the Board formally assumed control of the institutions.

The Roseau Town Board of Dominica was established in 1896, and its revenue and expenditure has been as follows:—

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1896	754	714
1897	929	925
1898	978	964
1899	920	890

An Ordinance to establish a Municipal Board for the town of Basseterre, in St. Kitts, is now under the consideration of the Secretary of State.

(G.) DEBTS OF MUNICIPALITIES.

The only municipal debt is that of the Roseau Town Board, namely, the amount of the Water Works Loan, £5,900, towards which a sinking fund had been accumulated at the end of 1899 of £5,389, as mentioned above. Annual contributions of £147 towards the final extinction of the debt are made from the general revenue of the Board. There is also a debt of £12,200, with an accumulated sinking fund, on 31st December last, of £4,450 on the water works of the City of St. John, but, as the City Board has not yet taken over the control of the water works, this still remains as a debt of the Presidency of Antigua.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports.

The aggregate value of the imports of the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the year under review (exclusive of internal trade between the various Presidencies) was £340,112, as against £299,976 for the year 1898, being an increase of £40,136.

The following table shows the total value of imports for each of the past five years, distinguishing the countries from which the imports were made, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1899 in comparison with the previous year. :—

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1899.

TOTAL IMPORTS.

Country whence imported.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	Increase 1899 over 1898.	Decrease 1899 under 1898.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	163,376	178,917	133,497	134,071	148,403	14,332	—
British Colonies	56,050	57,949	41,694	41,308	45,205	3,897	—
United States of America...	162,191	149,982	124,064	113,864	137,225	23,361	—
Other Foreign Countries	15,505	15,350	13,402	10,733	9,279	—	1,454
Total	397,122	402,198	312,657	299,976	340,112	41,590	1,454

Net increase in value of Imports in 1899, as compared with 1898, £40,136.

The returns of internal trade between the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands show a total value of goods exchanged or imported of £25,255, as against £12,119 in 1898. This increase is mainly due to the importation into Montserrat from Antigua of foodstuffs and lumber after the hurricane.

The table last given shows that an increase of over £18,000 in the value of goods imported from the United Kingdom and British Colonies occurred in 1899 as compared with 1898. The imports from the United States also increased by £23,361, but this was no doubt largely due to considerable importations of flour, cornmeal, and lumber after the hurricane.

The following summary of imports gives the aggregate values of the various classes of articles or goods imported during each of the last five years, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1899 as compared with 1898. The only classes of imports which show a decrease are live animals and bullion, while textiles and other manufactured articles (exclusive of metals) show increases of £12,004 and £11,264 respectively. Foodstuffs increased by £8,464 and raw materials by £7,719.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1899.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTS.

Articles.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	Increase 1899 over 1898.	Decrease 1899 under 1898.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Live Animals	2,189	2,649	979	2,425	1,954	—	471
Foodstuffs	170,931	158,378	132,320	132,728	141,192	8,464	—
Drinks	16,550	13,993	11,443	9,375	9,629	254	—
Narcotics	3,661	3,792	3,722	3,142	3,377	235	—
Raw Materials	14,063	16,953	9,947	8,310	16,029	7,719	—
Manufactured Articles, Textile	82,457	91,376	67,688	62,872	74,876	12,004	—
Do. Metal	19,712	20,873	16,912	13,081	16,994	3,913	—
Other Manufactures	87,559	92,684	69,540	63,448	74,712	11,264	—
	397,122	400,698	312,551	295,381	338,763	43,853	471
Coin and Bullion	—	1,500	106	4,595	1,349	—	3,246
Total	397,122	402,198	312,657	299,976	340,112	43,853	3,717

LEEWARD ISLANDS,
1899.

EXPORTS.

The aggregate value of exports during the year 1899 (exclusive of the internal trade between the Presidencies) was £351,429, as compared with £286,403 in 1898, showing a net increase of £65,026.

The following table gives the total value of exports during each of the last five years, distinguishing the countries to which the various articles of export were sent, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1899, as compared with 1898. It will be seen that a decrease of £2,356 occurred in the exports to the United Kingdom, while on the other hand an increase of £13,647 took place in the export trade with British Colonies. But the largest increase is found in the value of exports to the United States—namely, £55,906. This was due to the sugar crop, which, though still under the average of late years, was 2,750 tons larger than the miserable crop of last year, while prices were exceptionally good.

TOTAL EXPORTS.

Countries to which exported.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	Increase 1899 over 1898.	Decrease 1899 under 1898.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	48,708	44,703	49,582	62,563	60,207	—	2,356
British Colonies	56,022	54,027	38,925	28,075	41,722	13,647	—
United States of America...	142,826	196,141	223,150	178,348	234,254	55,906	—
Other Foreign Countries	20,266	21,639	16,839	17,417	15,246	—	2,171
Total	267,822	316,510	328,496	286,403	351,429	69,553	4,527

Net increase in value of exports in 1899, as compared with 1898, £65,026.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1899.

The export trade between the various Presidencies comprising the Colony shows an increase of £9,109, the figures being £21,722 in 1899, as against £12,613 in 1898.

The following table shows the value of the principal articles of export during each of the last five years, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1899 as compared with 1898 :—

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

Articles of Export.		1895.		1896.		1897.		1898.		1899.		Increase 1899 over 1898.		Decrease 1899 under 1898.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£		£		£		£		£		£		£
Sugar ...	Tons	27,492	173,652	32,421	228,612	28,555	236,209	20,065	174,098	22,815	230,029	2,750	55,931	—	—
Molasses	Puns.	8,436	23,290	9,565	14,825	7,483	12,506	4,204	8,595	7,292	20,152	3,088	11,557	—	—
Rum ...	Galls.	62,395	2,788	30,656	1,112	62,686	2,265	48,451	1,579	28,721	1,554	—	—	19,730	25
Coffee ...	lbs.	12,726	459	38,528	1,280	20,533	722	21,958	537	16,087	377	—	—	5,921	160
Cocoa ...	lbs.	617,836	8,444	944,349	12,823	598,680	9,007	1,112,862	26,362	868,441	20,372	—	—	244,421	5,990
Lime and Lime Juice.		—	19,599	—	19,240	—	24,514	—	25,753	—	32,780	—	7,027	—	—
Total ...			228,232		277,892		285,223		236,924		305,264		74,515		6,176

LEEWARD ISLANDS,
1899.

A glance at the preceding table shows that while the quantity of sugar exported in 1899 was 2,750 tons in excess of the export of the previous year, it was yet 5,740 tons less than in 1897, and 9,683 tons less than in 1896. A strong demand for molasses increased the export of that article from 4,204 puncheons in 1898 to 7,292 puncheons in 1899. In inverse ratio to this, the export of rum decreased by over 19,000 gallons, the value per gallon, however, being largely increased.

The average amount of sugar exported for the last five years is 26,269 tons, so that the quantity exported in 1899 was 3,454 tons below the average for that period.

The following table shows the export of sugar from each Presidency for each year during the last ten years :—

—	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	16,120	12,091	15,302	14,566	12,342	7,219	15,100	12,744	6,928	10,041
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	18,067	12,898	17,872	17,042	16,896	18,894	14,804	14,435	12,387	11,943
Dominica	2,312	1,636	2,215	1,474	1,050	844	844	565	339	278
Montserrat	1,411	1,034	2,509	1,660	1,694	631	1,672	810	411	553
Virgin Islands ...	1	—	8	4	3	4	1	1	—	—
Total ...	37,911	27,659	37,906	34,746	31,985	27,592	32,421	28,555	20,065	22,815

Average export of sugar from whole Colony during the last ten years, 30,165½ tons.

The value of the exports of coffee and cocoa was less in 1899 than in the previous year by £160 and £5,990 respectively, but, while the export of coffee is diminishing, that of cocoa is steadily increasing, the export during last year being over 41,000 lbs. above the average of the last five years.

The value of limes and lime juice exported was greater by over £7,000 than in 1898. Owing to the hurricane which devastated Montserrat in August, the export of lime juice from that island will be almost nil in 1900.

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES AND FISHERIES.

There is in Dominica one sulphur mine at Souffriere, and there are also mines in the Presidency of the Virgin Islands at Virgin Gorda, none of which are at present worked. There is some prospect, however, of the latter being again worked for molybdenum.

Sugar is manufactured in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat, lime juice in Dominica and Montserrat, bay oil in Dominica, and arrowroot in Montserrat.

There are no organised fisheries.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

The estimated acreage of cultivated land is 16,481 acres in Antigua, 18,654 in St. Kitts and Nevis, 4,712 in Montserrat, and 1,400 acres in the Virgin Islands. The amount of cultivated land in Dominica is unknown.

The cultivation in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis is almost entirely that of sugar, while in Dominica and Montserrat cocoa, lime juice and coffee are also grown.

The following short description of the work being carried on by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies in the various Presidencies of the Leeward Islands will be found of interest:—

There is a federal laboratory in Antigua, where the chemical work relating to agriculture is carried on. The analytical chemist visits the various islands of the Colony in connection with the experimental and other work which is being carried on.

Botanic stations are established in Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat, each under the charge of a curator. The work of these stations includes investigations with a view to the improvement of existing staple crops, the introduction of trees and plants of greater vigour and productiveness, as well as improvement in agricultural methods.

In Antigua and St. Kitts particular attention is being paid to the sugar cane, the selection of the most robust and productive variety of cane being a question of vital importance to the sugar industry; in each of these islands there are six local experimental stations, situated in different parts of the islands, where the cultivation of many varieties of cane is being carried on systematically, under the direction of the officers of the Department.

In Dominica, attention is particularly directed to cocoa and limes, the work of the botanical stations in connection with these having met with much local appreciation.

At all the stations attention is being given to the improvement of food crops of local interest and importance.

With the aid of the Department efforts are being made to introduce the teaching of the principles of agriculture into the elementary schools. Courses of lectures on the principles of agriculture are being given to teachers by the federal analytical chemist, assisted by the curators of botanic stations.

The work of the Department of Agriculture is as yet in its infancy, though considerable progress has already been made, and it is already felt that the work will have considerable influence upon the agricultural development of the Colony. The West Indian Bulletin or Journal of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, affords much information concerning the work of the Department in the Leeward Islands and elsewhere.

(D.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

No land grants have been made in recent years, and the general value of land varies so greatly in different Presidencies, and according to its suitability for sugar or other cultivation, that it is almost impossible to obtain reliable statistics as to value. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane land may be taken at the present moment to range between £4 and £8 per acre.

(E.) SHIPPING.

The following table shows the total tonnage of both steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1899, distinguishing between British and Foreign vessels :—

Island.	British.		Foreign.		Total Tonnage.	
	Steam Vessels entered and cleared.	Sailing Vessels entered and cleared.	Steam Vessels entered and cleared.	Sailing Vessels entered and cleared.	Steam.	Sailing.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua ...	414,584	20,867	3,136	5,572	417,720	26,439
St. Kitts ... Nevis ... Anguilla...	460,842	18,495	27,680	13,252	488,522	31,747
Dominica ...	450,932	6,046	4,138	3,870	455,070	9,916
Montserrat ...	174,490	10,547	—	1,392	174,490	11,939
Virgin Islands	—	9,524	—	1,850	—	11,374
Total ...	1,500,848	65,479	34,954	25,936	1,535,802	91,415

Comparing the above figures with those of 1898, it appears that there was in 1899 a total increase of 16,062 tons in steam vessels and of 3,374 tons in sailing vessels. If we examine the figures for each individual Presidency with those of 1898, it will be found that in Antigua there was an increase of 8,598 in steam tonnage and of 6,393 in sailing tonnage. In St. Kitts-Nevis (including Anguilla) there was an increase of 24,330 tons in steam vessels and a decrease of 5,939 tons in sailing vessels. Dominica shows an increase of 7,746 in steam tonnage and 242 in sailing tonnage. In Montserrat the steam tonnage decreased by 24,612 while the sailing tonnage increased by 2,611. The shipping of the Virgin Islands appears to have been practically stationary.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1899.

The following table shows the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in each Presidency during each of the last five years, including both steam and sailing vessels :—

Total Tonnage.

—	1895.	*1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua ...	467,978	468,612	445,948	429,168	444,159
St. Kitts-Nevis	478,132	473,407	491,629	501,878	520,269
Dominica ...	390,954	401,051	407,460	456,998	464,986
Montserrat ...	372,471	276,272	228,715	208,430	186,429
Virgin Islands ...	16,534	11,924	11,545	11,307	11,374
Total of Colony	1,726,069	1,631,266	1,585,297	1,607,781	1,627,217

* In June 1896, the contract under which the Federal Steamship "Tyne" was run by the Royal Mail Company between the various Islands of the Colony expired, and was not renewed.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The General Legislature passed nine Acts during the year 1899.

Of these, the most important was No. 1 of 1899, "An Act to further amend the Leeward Islands Act, 1871," by which the number of members of the General Legislative Council was reduced from 20 to 16, namely, eight officials and eight elective members. The eight official members are the Governor, Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, Auditor-General, the Administrators of St. Kitts-Nevis and Dominica, and the Commissioners of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands.

The elective members are elected by the unofficial members of the Legislative Councils of Antigua (three), St. Kitts-Nevis (three), and Dominica (two), and must themselves be members of such Councils.

The Governor presides over the new Council and possesses an original as well as a casting vote.

In Antigua 32 Ordinances were passed, of which the most important were:—No. 6, "An Ordinance to raise a fund in aid of the revenue of this Presidency," which imposed an Income Tax on all incomes of £100 and upwards and a trade licence on merchants' businesses. An Ordinance was also passed on the subject of medical and poor relief, vesting the control of the Holberton Hospital and lunatic and leper asylums in the Superintendent Medical Officers, instead of in an irresponsible Board, as has hitherto been the case. Ordinance No. 30 amends the Constitution Act of 1898 by providing that the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, and Auditor-General of the Leeward Islands, and also the Treasurer of Antigua, shall be ex-officio members of the local Legislative Council, and also provides for the temporary filling of vacancies and acceptance of the resignation of members by the Governor.

Fifteen Ordinances were passed by the Legislature of St. Kitts-Nevis, of which the most important were:—No. 1, which provides for the levying of a rate on the gross value of houses in the town of Basseterre until the Town Improvement Loan shall have been repaid; No. 6, which repeals the Volunteer Ordinance, and establishes a Defence Force, with clauses empowering the Governor by Proclamation to declare service in the Force compulsory; and No. 14, which reduces the number of medical districts in St. Kitts and Nevis to six.

The Legislature of Dominica passed eleven Ordinances during the year. No. 2 amends the Constitution Act of 1898 by providing that the Council shall consist of the Governor, the Administrator, and six official members, in addition to six unofficial members. The Governor, or in his absence the Administrator, presides, and has an original as well as a casting vote. Should the Governor and Administrator, however, both be present in Council, the Governor has a casting vote only, in the event of an equality of votes. Ordinance No. 7 consolidates and enlarges the law as to Income and Trade Tax. Ordinance No. 8 vests the control of the Hospital in the Medical Officer and abolishes the Board of Guardians.

Twelve Ordinances were passed by the Legislature of Montserrat, of which the most important was that amending the Land and House Tax Ordinance by substituting an acreage tax on land instead of a tax on assessed valuation.

An Ordinance was also passed providing for licences at reduced rates for the sale of rum in the country districts of Montserrat. The manufacture and sale of illicit rum having been checked by energetic action on the part of the police force, which was increased for the purpose, it was considered advisable to encourage the opening of licensed shops for the sale of rum in the country, at which it might be possible for the country people to obtain duty-paid liquor, instead of, as hitherto, being forced into breaking the law by secretly buying illicitly distilled rum at unlicensed houses.

The Legislature of the Virgin Islands passed four Ordinances, one of which provided for the issue of retail liquor licences.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The number of children on the rolls of the elementary schools was 243 less in 1899 than in 1898, but the average attendance has been increased by 301, the number on the rolls being 24,879, as against 25,122 in 1898, while the average attendance numbered 12,046, as against 11,745 in 1898.

The following table shows the number on the roll, average attendance and amounts received from school fees, Government grants and voluntary contributions each year, for the last five years:—

—	1895.	1896	1897.	1898.	1899.
Number on roll	25,120	25,439	25,022	25,121	24,879
Average attendance	12,402	12,894	12,438	11,745	12,046
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
School fees	543 1 7	465 0 11	331 14 9	228 3 10	180 4 9
Government grant	7,177 4 6	7,240 18 8	7,090 3 3	6,223 7 11	6,138 10 2
Voluntary contributions	683 12 5	934 10 11	532 19 6	563 6 1	568 16 7

In conjunction with the Imperial Department of Agriculture, the teaching of practical agriculture in elementary schools has been commenced. Plots of land are attached to the schools, in which the children receive practical instruction and demonstration of the agricultural lessons taught in school.

At the end of 1899 the Mico Training College for Teachers, which received an annual subsidy of £200 in consideration of the training of teachers for Government schools, was closed, and under a new arrangement 12 students from this Colony are received at the training college in Jamaica for training as teachers.

By arrangement with the Moravian Body 20 female students are trained at the Moravian Female Training College for appointment to Government schools, a grant of £200 per annum being made to the College.

(B.) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The only secondary schools in the Colony are the Antigua Grammar School, with 37 boys, which receives a grant of £200 from Antigua funds, the Roseau Grammar School in Dominica, with 30 boys, which is maintained by the Government, and the Antigua Girls' High School, with 27 pupils, which receives a grant of £100 per annum from Antigua funds. The Antigua Grammar School and Girls' High School receive pupils from other Presidencies in which no provision is made for higher education.

Antigua and Dominica are centres for the Cambridge Local Examinations. Examinations are also held in Antigua periodically for the various degrees in Arts and Law of the University of London.

(C.) INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL, OR AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

In the Skerretts (Boys) Training School the number of boys received is now limited to 100, and there were actually 93 inmates of the school on the 31st December, 1899, of whom 63 were natives of the Presidency of Antigua, 25 of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis (including Anguilla), and five of the Presidency of Montserrat.

At the Skerretts Government Farm, which is worked by the boys of the industrial school as a part of the ordinary school work, the experimental cultivation of several varieties of sugar cane was carried on.

The total expenditure on the stock farm and estate was £449 4*s*. 11*d*., while the receipts from the farm amounted to £475 2*s*. 4*d*.

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It will thus be seen that there was an actual profit on the farm of nearly £25 for the year.

The value of the stock was estimated at the end of the year at £1,771 10*s*.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

The following table shows in a summarised form the number of patients admitted in 1899 into the various hospitals throughout the Colony, the numbers discharged from these institutions, and the number of deaths which took place:—

Hospitals.	Number in Hospital on 1st January 1899.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua	157	1,522	266	905	—	321
Cunningham St. Kitts	114	958	538	205	80	118
Nevis	28	123	61	16	—	12
Dominica	64	359	292	66	5	12
Montserrat (Chateau)	80	73	41	13	2	48
„ (Hospital)	1	16	—	—	—	2

(B.) LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

The following table gives the statistics of the lunatic asylums for the year:—

Asylum.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1899.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Rat Island	79	23	18	1	—	3
Ridge	38	5	—	—	1	6

LEPER ASYLUMS.

Asylums.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1899.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua	36	8	—	2	2	2
St. Kitts	65	11	—	44	9	9

(C.) POOR HOUSES.

In Antigua there were in the poorhouse on 1st January 82 inmates. During the year 1899, 44 were admitted and 32 were discharged.

The number of persons in Antigua who received outdoor poor relief was 1,254, the total amount spent being £600. In Montserrat the poorhouse was totally destroyed in the hurricane of the 7th August, the inmates being housed in tents and in the cellars of the hospital for some months.

(D.) REFORMATORIES.

(See under Education—Training Schools.)

(E.) SAVINGS BANKS.

Savings banks have been established in all the Presidencies except that of the Virgin Islands. The total amount at the credit of depositors in the Colony on the 31st December last was £63,120 4*s.* 6*d.* The amount deposited during the year was £25,355 3*s.* 10*d.* as against withdrawals amounting to £18,083 18*s.* 9*d.*, while the number of depositors on the 31st December was 2,644.

The amount of funds invested on behalf of the savings banks is nearly £62,000.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The police force of the Leeward Islands numbered on the 31st December last a total strength of 203, including an inspector-general, three inspectors, three sergeant-majors, 32 non-commissioned officers, and 173 privates. Of these, one inspector, one sergeant-major, six sergeants, five corporals and 45 privates are stationed in Antigua; one inspector, one sergeant-major, four sergeants, three corporals, and 53 privates in St. Kitts-Nevis; one inspector, two sergeants, three corporals, and 30 privates in Dominica; and one sergeant-major, two sergeants, three corporals, and 35 privates in Montserrat. In June, 1899, in consequence of serious resistance offered to the police in Montserrat, in connection with searches for and seizure of illicit rum-stills, the police force in that Presidency was temporarily increased by 20 men, making a total of 40 men. After the hurricane of August 7th, much assistance was rendered by the police in the work of issuing food, bringing in wounded, and erecting tents for the sufferers.

(B.) PRISONS.

The total number of prisoners received during the year 1899 in the gaols of the various Presidencies was 1,772, being 185 fewer than in 1898. Of this number the approximate proportion of male prisoners amounted to over 56 per cent., of female prisoners to over 42 per cent., and of juveniles to nearly 2 per cent.

The number of deaths which occurred at the central prison in Antigua was five, of whom three died of dysentery (two of them in the prison hospital, the third in the Holberton Hospital, to which he had been transferred); the other two deaths were those of prisoners executed for murder. The total number of prisoners received at the prison in 1899 was the least during the past 10 years, as the following table will show:—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1890	466	173	639
1891	496	232	728
1892	363	209	563
1893	419	213	632
1894	325	253	578
1895	482	243	725
1896	324	264	588
1897	348	184	532
1898	363	217	580
1899	341	206	547

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1899.

The following table shows the number of cases treated by the Prison Surgeon during the year 1899, with the complaint in each case:—

Disease or Complaint.	1898.		1899.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Skin diseases	8	2	1	1
Gastro-intestinal dyspepsia, diarrhœa, dysentery.	125	8	167	28
Lung — Phthisis, bronchitis, pneumonia, pleurisy.	49	4	14	7
Heart disease	6	2	2	1
Apoplexy	1	0	0	0
Debility...	14	3	9	0
Hernia	8	0	4	0
Eye diseases	9	2	10	2
Genito-urinary...	16	4	6	1
Rheumatism and neuralgia	44	4	55	14
Epistaxis	0	0	2	0
Elephantiasis	2	1	0	0
Fevers—Malarial, typhoid, &c. ...	30	7	29	9
Abscesses and ulcers	2	0	9	3
Headaches	20	4	9	1
Slight injuries	6	0	8	2
Malingering	80	0	52	2
Total	420	41	377	71

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

The following table shows the total number of offences reported to the police during each of the last five years, together with the convictions and acquittals in each year, from which it appears that there has been a steady diminution of crime during

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1899.

the last five years, although the number of offences reported during the year 1899 was slightly in excess of the previous year's return:—

Year.	Offences reported.	Convicted.	Acquitted, died awaiting trial, or nolle prosequi entered.
1895 ...	18,282	7,479	8,921
1896 ...	15,128	5,962	8,959
1897 ...	13,261	5,837	7,258
1898 ...	12,813	5,613	7,105
1899 ...	13,358	6,808	6,449

Of the 13,358 offences reported during 1899, 2,969 were offences against the person, 1,095 prædial larceny, 1,328 were offences against property (other than prædial larceny), while the remaining 7,965 comprised all other offences.

Summary convictions were recorded against 6,727 persons in the magistrates' courts, the number of persons convicted by the superior courts being 81.

In the magistrates' courts 6,404 persons were acquitted, while the number acquitted in the superior courts was 31, a *nolle prosequi* was entered in 13 cases, and one prisoner died while awaiting trial.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The aggregate returns from the registrars of the various Presidencies show a total for the Colony of 5,131 births, 4,074 deaths, and 568 marriages. The census of 1891 gave a total population for the Colony of 127,723, and adding on the number of births in excess of deaths between the date of the census and the 31st December, 1898, we obtain as the present population of the

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1899.

Colony an apparent total of 140,576, but in the absence of statistics of emigration and immigration the above total cannot be considered reliable. Owing to want of work, numbers of men have left for other colonies in search of employment.

The following summary shows the population of each island of the Colony at the end of 1899 (subject to the differences caused by immigration and emigration above referred to), together with the births and deaths in each case during the past year:—

As usual, the births are largely in excess of the deaths in most Presidencies but in Antigua the deaths exceed the births, a very unusual condition in the case of a population which is largely made up of Africans. The cause of this is stated below, under the head of "Public Health":—

Island.	Population on 31st December 1899.	Births.	Deaths.	Net Increase in 1899.	Net Decrease in 1899.
Antigua ...	37,559	1,495	1,517	—	22
Barbuda ...	694	37	26	11	—
St. Kitts ...	33,415	1,239	983	256	—
Nevis	15,031	559	387	172	—
Anguilla ...	4,328	122	57	65	—
Dominica ...	30,380	975	481	494	—
Montserrat ...	13,797	540	499	41	—
Virgin Islands ...	5,372	164	124	40	—
Total ...	140,576	5,131	4,074	1,079	22

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The following table shows the death rate of the Colony per thousand during the past four years. It will be seen that the death rate in 1899 was 3·10 per 1,000 in excess of that of 1898 and 3·19 per 1,000 in excess of the average of the last four years.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1899.

The increase in the death rate occurred in Antigua and Montserrat. In the former of these Presidencies a severe epidemic of dysentery occurred, while in Montserrat about 100 deaths occurred from injuries received in the hurricane of the 7th August:—

Year.	Population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1896 ...	136,034	3,404	25·02
1897 ...	138,069	3,215	23·28
1898 ...	139,512	3,601	25·88
1899 ...	140,576	4,074	28·98

Average death rate per 1,000, during the period of four years, 25·79.

(C.) SANITATION.

Sanitary Boards exist in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat, by which provision is made for the enforcement of the usual sanitary regulations. In the town of St. John's, Antigua, the dry earth privy system, with frequent removal of excreta, has been introduced, and is gradually being extended. The villages are kept clear of weeds. In the Presidencies of St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat, there is an abundant supply of good water, carried by pipes to the towns. In Antigua, while the town of St. John's has a fair water supply, the country villages are exceedingly badly supplied with water by ponds, which can only be cleared out in very dry weather. A scheme for the distribution of the water from Wallings reservoir to some of the worst-supplied of the country districts, is now being carried out, the balance of the Public Works Loan of 1893 having been appropriated for this purpose, together with the sum of £7,600 received from the sale of the dredger "Pholas," which has been credited to the loan.

(D.) CLIMATE.

(1.) *Rainfall.*

The average of the rainfall recorded at 63 stations in Antigua during the year 1899 was 47·50 inches. The average rainfall during the past 26 years was 46·00 inches, so that last year's rainfall was 1·50 inches above the annual average.

In St. Kitts the rainfall at the United States Weather Bureau in Basseterre was 39·07 inches.

In Dominica the average rainfall recorded at 18 stations was 88·71 inches. Of these 18 stations, the average rainfall at 12 stations on the leeward side of the island was 82·94 inches, while the average for six stations on the windward slopes was 100·26 inches.

In Montserrat the average rainfall at four stations was 57·69.

(2.) *Temperature.*

In Antigua the shade temperature in St. John's varied during the year from 91·5 in October to 65 in December, the average readings for the year being 81·6 at 9 a.m. and 84·6 at 3 p.m.

In St. Kitts the maximum temperature, as taken at the United States Weather Bureau in Basseterre, was 98, in September and October, and the minimum 64, in December, while the average readings were 79·74 at 8 a.m. and 77·6 at 8 p.m.

In Montserrat, at Elberton (400 feet above sea level), the readings for the year cannot be given, all instruments having been destroyed, along with the house occupied by the observer, by the hurricane of the 7th August.

Direction and Force of Wind.

The prevailing direction of the wind in the Leeward Islands is east, with occasional variations to north-east and east-north-east. During the year the average velocity varied from 7·72 miles per hour in St. John's, Antigua, to 9·9 at Basseterre, St. Kitts.

Trade winds blow during the greater part of the year, but during the months of July, August, September, and October, the wind is usually light and variable, these being, however, the months during which hurricanes most frequently occur.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Comparing the amount of postal matter of all kinds received and despatched in the Colony during the year 1899 with the figures for 1898, we find that there was a very large increase of 115,653 in the number of letters received and sent, of 28,763 in the number of papers and books, while the number of parcels shows an increase of 680.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1899.

The large increase in the number of letters was due to the fact that penny postage with the United Kingdom and with many British Colonies was established during the year.

The following table shows the statistics of postal matter sent to and from the Colony during the last five years:—

Year.	Letters and Cards received and sent.	Books and Papers received and sent.	Parcels received and sent.
1895	426,086	173,373	6,160
1896	469,098	153,800	5,936
1897	362,433	151,853	5,430
1898	375,963	155,664	6,061
1899	491,616	184,427	6,741

A special issue of postage stamps for the Virgin Islands early in the year resulted in large sales, bringing in a revenue of nearly £1,500 to that Presidency.

The total value of money orders issued in the Colony was £29,851, as compared with £28,409 in 1898, while the value of orders cashed in the Colony amounted to £15,519, as against £9,519 in 1898.

The money order system was extended to the Virgin Islands during the year.

A subsidy of £1,600 is paid to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, of which Antigua pays £600, St. Kitts-Nevis £600, and Dominica £400.

The Direct West India Cable Company's cable is also laid as far as Jamaica *viâ* Halifax and Bermuda, the line passing entirely through British territory. By either route telegrams can be sent to all parts of the world. The charge per word to the United Kingdom is 4*s.* 7½*d.* per word, with a preferential rate for Government telegrams of 3*s.* 1½*d.* per word.

Telephone systems are in operation in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts, there being in the former island 275 miles of wire and 138 instruments in use, while the latter has 204 miles of wire and 82 instruments.

The expenditure in Antigua on the telephone system in 1889 was £927 and the receipts were £704.

In St. Kitts the expenditure was £533 and the receipts £337.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

(A.) REGULAR FORCES.

None.

(B.) MILITIA.

None.

(C.) VOLUNTEER.

Volunteer defence forces have been established in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis.

In Antigua the St. John's Mounted Infantry and Infantry Companies (armed with Martini-Enfield rifles) numbered on the 31st December, 1899, 95 officers and men, and the corps is increasing in strength.

In St. Kitts-Nevis a volunteer defence force has been established since 1896, numbering 120 officers and men, armed with Martini-Enfield rifles. Of these 66 are mounted infantry and 54 are infantry, with 10 officers and three medical officers.

The expenditure in Antigua on the defence force was in 1899 £325, including salary of drill instructor and amount of capitation grant drawn.

The expenditure on the St. Kitts-Nevis defence force was £652 in 1899. The arms are on loan from the Imperial Government.

(D.) CONSTABULARY OR SEMI-MILITARY COLONIAL FORCE.

None.

The police are armed with Martini-Enfield rifles.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The year 1899 will long be memorable for the awful hurricane which swept over the Islands of Montserrat and Nevis, as well as part of St. Kitts, on the 7th August. The very centre of the cyclone appears to have passed over Montserrat, and in the course of a few hours the whole island was devastated. There was scarcely a house which was not either wholly destroyed or partially wrecked, and in some cases not a trace of it remained. Every church had its roof removed, and in many instances even the stone walls were laid prostrate, causing a serious mortality amongst those who had taken refuge in the buildings. Schools and sugarworks were swept away, and in some districts not a single dwelling-house remained.

Some idea of the force of the hurricane of 7th August may be gathered from the fact that in Montserrat the barometer fell as low as 27·50, and that at one period a fall of one inch and a quarter was recorded in twelve minutes.

A chaos of destruction littered the hill sides, roofing and walls of houses being hurled incredible distances from their original sites. A similar experience, but in a somewhat lesser degree, occurred in Nevis. Antigua was also visited by a hurricane of considerable violence on the 8th September, which, although not of sufficient force to destroy substantial houses, caused much damage to the huts of the labouring class, who consequently suffered from exposure and distress.

Relief works were undertaken in Montserrat and Nevis, and, thanks to a fund started by the Lord Mayor of London, which realised nearly £7,000, and to the generous assistance afforded by Barbados and other West Indian Colonies, in money, food, clothing, and lumber, much distress was alleviated, while substantial help has, since the close of the year, been given from an Imperial Hurricane Grant of £17,000, which has been allotted in assisting to rebuild schools, in loans to planters to enable them to repair their works, in assisting the labouring class to rebuild their houses, and in repairs of special buildings.

The hopes of the sugar-producing islands of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Montserrat are still centred in the establishment of central factories, which are recognised by all to be absolutely necessary, and there is little doubt that the erection of such factories would galvanise these islands into life, and that employment would be afforded to many idle hands, in winning back to cultivation many acres of land formerly growing sugar, but at present abandoned.

One of the hindrances to the successful development of a class of peasant proprietors is the unfortunate prevalence of prædial larceny, which robs the industrious peasant cultivator of the fruits of his labour even before they are ripe, and discourages him from further effort.

The postal returns show that the reduction of the postage rate between the Colony and the United Kingdom and other British Colonies has been fully justified, the number of letters having increased by nearly one-third, while the loss of revenue from the sale of stamps of a less face value has been nearly compensated by the increased sale of penny stamps.

A special issue of postage stamps for the Presidency of the Virgin Islands, to be used concurrently with the postage stamps of the Colony of the Leeward Islands, brought in a considerable revenue, as already noticed under the head of "Postal Service."

In November last the General Legislative Council passed an Act reducing the number of its members from 20 to 16, eight official and eight elected members. The Governor is one of the eight official members, possessing a dual vote as President of the Council. Under the late constitution of the Council, the President possessed no casting vote, and as the Council consisted of 10 nominated and 10 elected members, a deadlock sometimes occurred, there being no means of deciding a motion in the case of an equality of votes.

Valuable meteorological statistics have been placed at the disposal of the compiler of the Blue Book by the officers of the United States Weather Bureau Stations established in St. Kitts and Dominica, whose courtesy is hereby acknowledged.

The nature of the work of the Imperial Department of Agriculture has already been indicated, and although it is too soon to observe much practical result from an undertaking which is hardly yet commenced, increasing care and attention is being directed to agriculture of all kinds, from which, in the future, good fruits may be anticipated.

W. M. GORDON,

For the Colonial Secretary.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

1900.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 337.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 308.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1901.

LONDON:
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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
314	Hong Kong	1899
315	Southern Nigeria	1899–1900
316	Grenada	1899
317	Jamaica	1899–1900
318	British Guiana	"
319	Christmas Island	1900
320	British Solomon Islands	1899–1900
321	Lagos	1900
322	Bermuda...	"
323	St. Helena	"
384	Sierra Leone	"
325	Gambia	"
326	Barbados...	"
327	Bahamas...	"
328	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
329	Malta	"
330	Straits Settlements	"
331	Fiji	"
332	St. Lucia...	"
333	Seychelles	"
334	Falkland Islands	"
335	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1900
336	British New Guinea	1899–1900

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand...	Forests
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas...	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific...	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada...	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas...	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ..	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Report on operations in New Territory during 1900.

No. 337.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 308.)

ACTING GOVERNOR SIR G. MELVILLE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Antigua,
10th September, 1901.

(Extract.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1900, together with a report thereon by Mr. E. B. Jarvis, Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office, submitted by Mr. Foster, Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Antigua,
10th September, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1900, together with a report thereon which has been prepared by Mr. Edward B. Jarvis, the Chief Clerk in this Office, to be transmitted by Your Excellency to the Secretary of State.

I have, &c.,

E. A. FOSTER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
Sir G. Melville, K.C.M.G.,
Acting Governor-in-Chief,
Leeward Islands.

10024—875—10/1901 Wt 25152 D & S—5

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1900.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1900

I.—FINANCIAL.

(*a*.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The Revenue for the year 1900 is returned at £119,450, exclusive of grants in aid from the Imperial Government, showing a net decrease of £2,111 as compared with the Revenue of the year 1899, which amounted to £121,561.

The following table shows the amount of Revenue collected in each Presidency during the last five years, as also the increase or decrease in 1900 as compared with the previous year:—

Presidency.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	Increase 1900 over 1899.	Decrease 1900 under 1899.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ...	54,951	46,330	39,663	42,822	42,652	—	170
St. Kitts-Nevis	49,561	45,247	40,430	42,809	39,904	—	2,905
Dominica ...	24,904	23,610	24,570	26,156	28,113	1,957	—
Montserrat ...	7,775	7,906	6,199	6,790	6,664	—	126
Virgin Islands	1,469	1,675	1,715	2,984	2,117	—	867
Total ...	138,660	124,768	112,577	121,561	119,450	1,957	4,068

Net decrease of revenue in 1900, as compared with 1899, £2,111.

A comparative statement of Revenue collected in each Presidency of the Colony in the years 1899 and 1900 will be found in section D. of the Blue Book.

Under the head of "Customs," there were in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis decreases of £1,093 and £710 respectively, while Dominica, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands exhibit increases of £1,462, £166, and £74 respectively.

Under the head of "Port and Harbour Dues," Dominica is the only Presidency showing an increase, which amounts to

£171. Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands showing decreases of £62, £570, £47, and £9 respectively.

In Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat, there are decreases under the head "Excise," of £432, £740, £278, and £269 respectively.

Under the head "Taxes," increases appear in Antigua of £561, Dominica £301, and Montserrat £26; decreases of £383 and £3 appearing in St. Kitts-Nevis and the Virgin Islands.

The Revenue derived from "Licenses" exhibits decreases of £133 in Antigua, £71 in St. Kitts-Nevis, £56 in Dominica, while there are slight increases of £17 in Montserrat and £2 in the Virgin Islands.

Under the head "Post Office" there is a remarkable decrease of Revenue, amounting to £1,158 in the Virgin Islands. In the year 1899, there was an increase of £1,474, which, as pointed out in last year's report, was attributable to the new issue of stamps, which were largely purchased on their first appearance.

Expenditure.

The aggregate Expenditure of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1900 amounted to £131,973, as against £143,285 for the previous year, showing a decrease of £11,312.

The following table shows the Expenditure of each Presidency for each of the last five years, as also the increase or decrease in 1900 as compared with 1899:—

Presidency.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	Increase 1900 over 1899.	Decrease 1900 under 1899.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ...	57,345	53,417	55,586	51,959	49,435	—	2,524
St. Kitts-Nevis	56,501	51,775	44,659	47,415	43,964	—	3,451
Dominica ...	25,189	24,062	24,648	25,083	26,780	1,697	—
Montserrat ...	8,732	9,895	11,936	16,608	9,597	—	7,011
Virgin Islands	1,670	1,777	1,783	2,220	2,197	—	23
Total ...	149,437	140,926	138,612	143,285	131,973	1,697	13,009

Net decrease of expenditure in 1900, as compared with 1899, £11,312

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1900.

A comparison of the items of Expenditure in each Presidency during the year 1900 with those of 1899, as given in section D. of the Blue Book, shows that the increases or decreases occur under the following heads:—

"Federal Contribution."—The decrease of £526 under this head is due to the reduction of Expenditure by the General Government.

"Board of Health."—The decrease, £486, is due to the merging of the "Board of Health" into the "St. John's City Board."

A large decrease of £3,365 appears under the head "Miscellaneous." In the year 1899 an increase of £2,291 appeared, which, as explained in the report for that year, was accountable for by the Expenditure in St. Kitts-Nevis, owing to the refund of £2,225 for land tax and export duty, and an unforseen expenditure in Montserrat of £359 on account of the hurricane in 1899.

"Post Office."—The decrease of £253 under this head is due to the cost of the dies imported in the previous year for the new issue of postage stamps in the Virgin Islands.

"Telegraphs."—The decrease of £260 under this head is accounted for by the reduction by £200 in Dominica of the subsidy paid by that Presidency to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

The large decrease under "Public Works Extraordinary" is explained by the large amount which was spent during the year 1899 consequent on the hurricane.

Briefly summarised, the Expenditure of Antigua shows a decrease of £2,524 in 1900 as compared with 1899, St. Kitts-Nevis of £3,451, Montserrat of £7,011, and Virgin Islands of £23, while Dominica exhibits an increase of £1,697.

(b.) CHANGES IN TAXATION.

The following alterations were made in the taxation of the various Presidencies:—

In Antigua, by Ordinance No. 9 of 1900, the Income Tax levied by Ordinance No. 6 of 1899 on persons other than officials was repealed, and in lieu thereof the specific licences mentioned in Schedule C. of Ordinance No. 9 of 1900 were imposed. The income tax of 3 per cent. levied on officials' salaries by Ordinance No. 6 of 1899 was reduced to 1½ per cent. on those salaries which did not exceed £100 per annum.

By Ordinance No. 10 of 1900 the Land Tax for that year was fixed, with respect to cane lands, at 2*s*. 6*d*. per acre.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1900.

In St. Kitts-Nevis, by Ordinance No. 6 of 1900, additional customs duties were imposed on alcoholic liquors, tea, and tobacco. The duty on ale, beer, stout, &c., was increased from 1*s*. 6*d*. to 2*s*. per dozen reputed quarts, and from 6*d*. to 7*d*. in casks.

Brandy from 5*s*. to 8*s*. per gallon.

Whiskey from 4*s*. 6*d*. to 6*s*. 6*d*. per gallon.

Tea from 4*d*. per lb. to 6*d*. per lb.

Leaf tobacco from 9*d*. to 11*d*., and manufactured tobacco, including snuff, from 2*s*. 6*d*. to 2*s*. 11*d*. per lb.

No change in taxation took place either in Dominica or the Virgin Islands.

In Montserrat, by Ordinance No. 5 of 1900, every acre or part of an acre of land which was devastated by the hurricane in the year 1899, and which has been replanted in limes, oranges, coffee, or cocoa, was fixed at the sum of 6*d*. for five successive years and thereafter at 1*s*.

(c.) Assets and Liabilities.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Federal Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1900.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
Presidencies—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Presidencies—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
St. Kitts-Nevis	446 3 3		Virgin Islands...	116 14 1	
Montserrat	626 3 5		Antigua	200 0 6	
		1,072 6 8	Dominica	82 17 2	
Money Order Accounts—					399 11 9
Canada	232 19 0		Money Order Accounts—		
United States	556 12 7		Barbados	600 0 0	
Jamaica	28 8 1		Bermuda	11 10	
		817 19 8	Trinidad	98 5 8	
Deposit Accounts—					698 17 6
Land Assurance Fund		1,730 8 6	Investment Accounts—		
			Land Assurance Fund ...		1,600 0 0
Sundry Creditors—			Sundry Debtors—		
Dr. Morris	9 8 2		Imperial Government ...	85 19 11	
Police Reward Fund	6 2 6		E. A. Foster	1 13 4	
P. O. Guarantee Fund	20 6 10				87 13 3
		35 17 6	Cash—		
General Account		85 19 11	Treasurer	471 2 2	
			Crown Agents	485 7 7	
					956 9 9
Total		3,742 12 3	Total		3,742 12 3

PRESIDENCY OF ANTIGUA.

COLONY OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1900.

PRESIDENCY

COLONY OF THE

Statement of Assets and

Liabilities.	—			—		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Deposits to be repaid on account of Money Orders.	180	14	2			
„ to Cover duties	2	11	4			
„ Copyright duties		3	8			
„ Revenue Defence Fund ...	16	17	6			
„ City Fund	33	19	3			
„ London University and Cambridge fees.	5	0	0			
				239	5	11
Balance due General Government Leeward Islands.				200	0	6½
„ Presidency of Dominica ...	4	6	5			
„ „ „ Montserrat ...	5	3	5			
„ Unrepresented Estates ...	353	3	6			
„ Escheated „ ...	146	11	6			
„ Bankruptcy „ ...	73	13	3			
„ Registrar (unclaimed balances)	20	19	4½			
„ Prison Officers Fine Fund ...	37	11	11			
„ Official Receiver account Globe Premises.	525	0	0			
				1,166	9	4½
Drafts on Crown Agents	3,320	0	0			
Loan Works Balance of Appropriation...	7,909	18	4			
				11,229	18	4
				12,835	14	2
Excess of Assets				987	17	10½
Total				13,823	12	0½

OF ANTIGUA.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Liabilities on 31st December, 1900.

Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Advances paid on Account of Money Orders.	349 18 8	
" Government of British Guiana.	16 19 6	
" " " Botanic Department..	157 17 10	
" United Kingdom Post Office	7 13 8	532 9 8
, Presidency St. Kitts-Nevis...	82 4 11	
" " Virgin Islands...	17 5 10	99 10 9
Crown Agents Current account ...	3,430 14 0	
Treasurer	989 7 9½	
London and Westminster Bank Deposit Public Works Loan.	8,771 9 10	13,191 11 7½
Total		13,823 12 0½

Leeward Islands, 1900.

PRESIDENCY OF

Statement of Assets and

Liabilities.	—			—		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance due to Sinking Fund—						
Basseterre Improvement				809	3	1
Crown Agents				882	19	8
Drafts on Crown Agents				2,101	1	7
General Post Office London				1	0	2
Family Remittances				16	13	4
Other Presidencies				135	5	11
Public Works Loan 1891	1,478	1	8			
„ „ „ 1893	673	18	10	2,152	0	6
Money Order Accounts United Kingdom	113	3	8			
Barbados	84	14	9			
Trinidad	1	3	1			
Canada		16	3			
United States	11	7	3	211	5	0
Planters Loan Fund	550	0	0			
Revenue Defence Fund	73	10	7			
Deposits Repayable to secure duties	1	5	0			
Provost Marshal's Deposit account	4	19	7			
Unrepresented Estates	22	7	0			
Hurricane Relief Fund	72	17	4	724	19	6
Excess of Assets				678	12	5
Total				7,713	1	2

St. Christopher-Nevis.

Liabilities on 31st December, 1900.

Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
In Colonial Bank on Current Account	3,507 7 8	
In Treasury Chest Anguilla	10 16 2	3,518 3 10
G. H. Turner		27 1 8
General Government Leeward Islands	446 3 3	
Other Presidencies	4 15 0	450 18 3
Money Order—		
Leeward Islands	504 4 6	
Windward Islands	26 17 7	
British Guiana	44 10 8	
Bermuda	928 11 2	1,504 3 11
Personal Advances		1,308 13 6
Remittances in Transit		904 0 0
Total		7,713 1 2

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1900.

PRESIDENCY OF DOMINICA.

Statement of the Assets and Liabilities on General Revenue Account on 31st December, 1900.

Liabilities.	—			—			Assets.	—			—		
Deposits to be repaid to—	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	Cash—	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Sundry Money Order accounts...	373	18	1				In Colonial Bank on Current Account.	2,486	2	0			
Registrar and Marshal's deposit account.	48	2	7½				In Treasury Chest	553	13	2			
Deposits to secure duties ...	11	8	10								3,039	15	2
Prison Officers' Fine Fund ...	15	6	4				Investments by Crown Agents ...				1,500	0	0
Plaintiffs' costs deposit account		17	6										
Receiver of Wrecks	30	3	10				Remittances in transit				821	11	5
Revenue Defence Fund... ...	171	8	6										
				651	5	8½	Advances—						
Balance due to—							Sundry Money Order accounts				22	5	0
General Government Leeward Islands.	82	17	2½				Balances due by—						
Other Presidencies—													
St. Kitts-Nevis	4	15	0				Her Majesty's Government ...	335	4	2			
Montserrat	1	14	11				Crown Agents	270	6	11			
General Post Office, London ...		6	9½				Other Presidencies, Antigua ...	4	6	5			
				89	13	11					609	17	6
				740	19	7½							
Excess of Assets...				5,252	9	5½							
Total				5,993	9	1	Total				5,993	9	1

PRESIDENCY OF MONTSERRAT.

Statement of the Assets and Liabilities, 31st December, 1900.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Deposits to be repaid :—			Cash		1,372 11 1
Unrepresented Estates Reserve Fund.	3 17 9		Advances—		
Botanical Department Advance Account.	66 10 11		General Government	626 3 5	
Registrar's Deposit Account ...	5 16 8		St. Kitts-Nevis	53 1 0	
Hurricane Relief Fund Deposit Account.	25 0 0		Dominica	1 14 11	
Provost Marshal's Deposit Account.	3 3 11		United Kingdom Post Office Account.	4 17 10	
Escheated Estates Account ...	9 13 6		Antigua	5 3 5	
Unrepresented Estates Account	126 11 5		Imperial Hurricane Relief Grant Advance Account.	950 5 8	
Sundry Money Order Accounts...	960 2 1	1,200 16 3			
Balance due to Crown Agents ...		1,163 9 2	Sundry Money Order Accounts...	30 18 0	1,672 4 3
Excess of Assets		1,930 9 11	Drafts and Remittances		1,250 0 0
Total		4,294 15 4	Total...		4,294 15 4

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Statement of the Assets and Liabilities on the 31st December, 1900.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
General Government	116 14 1		Liberated Africans		0 19 1
Presidency of Antigua	17 5 10	133 19 11	Crown Agents		524 2 10
Money Orders—			Advances Account		50 11 10
United Kingdom	1 9 3				
Canada	6 10 0		Colonial Bank, Antigua, Deposit Account.		300 0 0
United States	0 4 0				
Barbados	51 5 10				
Leeward Islands	96 19 3				
Windward Islands	4 9 7	160 17 11	Colonial Bank, S. Thomas, Current Account.	0 15 8	
Provost Marshal's Deposit Account		1 3 8			
Unrepresented Estates Accounts ...		8 0 9	Treasurer	115 11 0¾	
Land Titles Assurance Fund ...		0 8 4			
G.P.O. London		86 7 5			116 6 8¾
		390 18 0	Advances and Deposits, Botanic Department.		58 18 0
Excess of Assets		660 0 5¾			
Total		1,050 18 5¾	Total...		1,050 18 5¾

NOTE.—The apparent excess of Assets in the cases of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Montserrat is nominal, being due to advance payments from the Imperial Grant in aid of Deficiency of General Revenue in various West Indian colonies.

(*d.*) PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, which, on the 31st December, 1899, stood at £294,121, was, at the close of 1900, reduced to £293,321, £200 having been paid on account of the Antigua Savings' Bank Loan of 1881, £500 on account of the Basseterre Improvement Loan, 1891, and £100 on account of the Montserrat Water Works Loan of 1879.

The Dominica Water Works Loan of £5,900 (the sinking fund of which is nearly sufficient to repay it) appears in the statement of Public Debt given below, although this loan has now been assumed by the Town Board of Roseau and is regarded as a liability of the Municipality.

There is no public debt in the Virgin Islands.

The followng table shows the individual liabilities of the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat, with a column showing the amounts to the credit of the various sinking fund accounts on the 31st December, 1900:—

Presidency.	Debt.	To Credit of Sinking Fund.
	£	£
Antigua	137,071	21,769
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	73,950	6,991
Dominica	70,900	12,074
Montserrat ...	11,400	957
Total ...	293,321	41,791

(*e.*) CURRENCY.

There is nothing to be remarked under this head. The bank rates of exchange remained unaltered.

(*f.*) COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES.

The revenue of the St. John's City Board for the year, inclusive of the grant in aid from General Revenue, amounted to £2,745 1*s.* 5*d.*, and the expenditure to £2,740 16*s.* 9*d.*

The St. John's City Board, as established under Ordinance No. 5 of 1898, is a corporate body, established for the government of the city of St. John and its vicinity, and consists of 12 members, six of whom are nominated by the Governor and six are elected by the inhabitants.

The control and upkeep of the public library, market, cemetery, and the duties of the sanitary authorities, were assumed by the City Board during the year 1900, and the waterworks and fire brigade are to be taken over by them early in 1901.

The future policy of the Board will be to secure higher sanitation, and improve the condition of the several departments that have been placed under their management.

(*g.*) DEBTS OF MUNICIPALITIES.

The only municipal debt is that of the Roseau Town Board, viz., the Water Works Loan of £5,900. As against this, a sinking fund, amounting to £5,370 0*s.* 11*d.*, has been accumulated at the end of 1900.

The Roseau Town Board of Dominica was established in 1896, and its Revenue and Expenditure has been as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1896	754	714
1897	929	925
1898	978	964
1899	920	890
1900	1,084	1,033

A Town Board for Basseterre, St. Kitts, is being established.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(*a.*) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports.

The total value of the imports of the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the year 1900, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £346,395, as against £340,112 in 1899, being an increase of £6,283.

The following table shows the total value of imports for each of the past five years, distinguishing the countries from which the imports came, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1900 as compared with the previous year.

TOTAL IMPORTS.

Country whence imported.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	Increase 1900 over 1899.	Decrease 1900 under 1899.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	178,917	133,497	134,071	148,393	141,131	—	7,262
British Colonies	57,949	41,694	41,308	45,259	55,810	10,551	—
United States of America...	149,982	124,064	113,864	137,224	140,022	2,798	—
Other Foreign Countries	15,350	13,402	10,733	9,236	9,432	196	—
Total	402,198	312,657	299,976	340,112	346,395	13,545	7,262

Net increase in value of Imports in 1900, as compared with 1899, £6,283.

The return of internal trade between the presidencies shows a total value of goods exchanged or imported as £25,786 in 1900 as against £25,255 in 1899, being an increase of £531.

The following summary of imports gives the aggregate value of the various articles or goods imported during each of the last five years and also shows the increase or decrease in 1900 as compared with the previous year :—

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1900.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTS.

Articles.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	Increase 1900 over 1899.	Decrease 1900 under 1899.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Live Animals	2,649	978	2,425	1,954	1,210	—	744
Foodstuffs	158,378	132,320	132,728	141,192	140,507	—	685
Drinks	13,993	11,443	9,375	9,629	10,192	563	—
Narcotics	3,792	3,722	3,142	3,377	3,181	—	196
Raw Materials	16,953	9,947	8,310	16,029	15,717	—	312
Manufactured Articles, Textile	91,376	67,688	62,872	74,876	64,677	—	10,199
Do. Metal	20,873	16,912	13,081	16,994	24,430	7,436	—
Other Manufactures	92,684	69,540	63,448	74,712	77,319	2,607	—
	400,698	312,551	295,381	338,763	337,233	10,606	12,136
Coin and Bullion	1,500	106	4,595	1,349	9,162	7,813	—
Total	402,198	312,657	299,976	340,112	346,395	18,419	12,136

The above table shows an increase of £6,283 in the total value of imports in 1900 as compared with the year 1899.

The classes of imports which show decreases are:—

	£
Live animals	744
Foodstuffs	685
Narcotics	196
Raw materials	312
Manufactured articles, textile	10,199

Those showing increases being:—

Drinks	563
Manufactured articles, metal	7,436
Other manufactures	2,607

Exports.

The total amount of exports during the year 1900 (exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, which amounted to £21,991) was £279,020, as against £351,429 in 1899, showing a decrease of £23,409.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1900.

The following table gives the total value of exports during each of the last five years distinguishing the countries to which the various articles were sent, and showing the increase or decrease in 1900, as compared with 1899.

TOTAL EXPORTS.

Countries to which exported.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	Increase 1900 over 1899.	Decrease 1900 under 1899.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	44,703	49,582	62,563	60,207	61,673	1,466	—
British Colonies	54,027	38,925	28,075	41,722	45,547	3,825	—
United States of America...	196,141	223,150	178,348	234,254	154,121	—	80,133
Other Foreign Countries	21,639	16,839	17,417	15,246	17,679	2,433	—
Total	316,510	328,496	286,403	351,429	279,020	7,724	80,133

Net decrease in value of Exports in 1900, as compared with 1899, £72,409.

It will be observed that there is a large decrease of £80,133 in exports to the United States of America, which is accounted for by the large decrease in the output of sugar which was less in 1900 by 7,431 tons, valued at £72,292, than in 1899.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1900.

The export trade between the various Presidencies of the Colony of the Leeward Islands amounted to £21,991 in 1900, as against £21,772 in 1899, showing a slight increase of £219.

The amount of export trade between the several Presidencies of the Leeward Islands Colony for the last ten years is as follows:—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1891	30,460
1892	33,582
1893	22,185
1894	25,381
1895	20,323
1896	15,024
1897	11,422
1898	12,613
1899	21,772
1900	21,991

The Federal Steamship "Tyne," which was subsidised to run between the several Presidencies, was discontinued in June, 1896, and it is interesting to note the large falling off in the trade between the Presidencies which has taken place from that date.

LEEWARD ISLANDS,
1900.

The following table shows the value of the principal exports during the last five years, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1900 as compared with 1899.

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

Articles of Export.		1896.		1897.		1898.		1899.		1900.		Increase 1900 over 1899.		Decrease 1900 under 1899.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£		£		£		£		£		£		£
Sugar ...	Tons	32,421	228,612	28,555	236,209	20,065	174,098	22,815	230,029	15,384	157,737	—	—	7,431	72,292
Molasses	Puns.	9,565	14,825	7,483	12,506	4,204	8,595	7,292	20,152	6,142	22,853	—	2,701	1,150	—
Rum ...	Galls.	30,656	1,112	62,636	2,265	48,451	8,579	28,721	1,554	15,352	1,003	—	—	13,369	551
Coffee ...	lbs.	38,528	1,280	20,533	722	21,958	537	16,037	377	5,957	207	—	—	10,080	170
Cocoa ...	lbs.	944,349	12,823	593,680	9,007	1,112,862	26,362	868,441	20,372	1,036,173	24,285	167,732	3,913	—	—
Lime and Lime Juice.		—	19,240	—	24,514	—	25,753	—	32,780	—	32,277	—	—	—	503
Total ...			277,892		285,223		236,924		305,264		238,362		6,614		73,516

From the preceding table it will be observed that there was, in 1900, a decrease of 7,431 tons of sugar valued at £72,292.

There was also a decrease of 1,150 puncheons of molasses, but an increase of £2,701 in value.

The increase in the output of cocoa from Dominica was 167,732 lbs. and the increase in value £3,913.

The average amount of sugar exported during the past five years is 23,848 tons, so that the quantity exported in 1900 was 8,464 tons below that average.

The following table shows the export of sugar from each Presidency for each of the last ten years :—

Presidency.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	12,091	15,302	14,566	12,342	7,219	15,100	12,744	6,928	10,041	7,603
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	12,898	17,872	17,042	16,896	18,894	14,804	11,435	12,387	11,943	7,451
Dominica	1,636	2,215	1,474	1,050	844	844	565	339	278	107
Montserrat	1,034	2,509	1,660	1,694	631	1,672	810	411	553	223
Virgin Islands ...	—	8	4	3	4	1	1	—	—	—
Total ...	27,659	37,906	34,746	31,985	27,592	32,421	28,555	20,065	22,815	15,384

The average export of sugar for the last ten years from the Colony of the Leeward Islands is 27,912⅘ tons.

(b.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There is in Dominica one sulphur mine at Soufrière, and there are also mines in the Virgin Islands at Virgin Gorda. Negotiations are being entered into for the working of the latter.

Sugar is the staple product in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis.

Rum is manufactured chiefly in St. Kitts. This Presidency exported 15,323 gallons in 1900.

Lime juice is manufactured in Dominica and Montserrat, bay oil in Dominica, and arrowroot in Montserrat.

There are no organized fisheries.

(c.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANIC STATIONS.

The estimated acreage of cultivated land in Antigua is 16,481 acres, out of 52,794 acres, in St. Kitts-Nevis (exclusive of Anguilla) 18,268, out of 75,520 acres. In Dominica there are about 177,549 acres of uncultivated land, of which about 80,000 acres are Crown lands suitable for cultivation.

The following short description of the work being carried on by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies in the various Presidencies of the Leeward Islands will be found of interest:—

There is a Federal Laboratory in Antigua, where the chemical work relating to agriculture is carried on. The analytical chemist visits the various islands of the Colony in connection with the experimental and other work which is being carried on.

Botanic stations are established in Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat, each under the charge of a curator. The work of these stations includes investigations with a view to the improvement of existing staple crops, the introduction of trees and plants of greater vigour and productiveness, as well as improvement in agricultural methods.

In Antigua and St. Kitts particular attention is being paid to the sugar cane, the selection of the most robust and productive variety of cane being a question of vital importance to the sugar industry; in each of these islands there are local experimental stations, situate in different parts of the islands, where the cultivation of many varieties of cane is being carried on systematically under the direction of the officers of the Department.

In Dominica, attention is particularly directed to cocoa and limes, the work of the botanical stations in connection with these having met with much local appreciation.

At all the stations attention is being given to the improvement of food crops of local interest and importance.

With the aid of the Department efforts are being made to introduce the teaching of the principles of agriculture into the elementary schools. Courses of lectures on the principles of agriculture are being given to teachers by the Federal Analytical Chemist, assisted by the curators of botanic stations.

The work of the Department of Agriculture is as yet in its infancy, though considerable progress has already been made, and it is already felt that the work will have considerable influence upon the agricultural development of the Colony. The West Indian Bulletin, or Journal of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, affords much information concerning the work of the Department in the Leeward Islands and elsewhere.

(*d.*) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LANDS.

The general value of land varies so greatly in different Presidencies, and according to its suitability for sugar or other cultivation, that it is almost impossible to obtain reliable statistics as to value. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane land may be taken at the present moment to range between £4 and £8 per acre.

(*e.*) SHIPPING.

The following table shows the total tonnage of both steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1900, distinguishing between British and Foreign vessels:—

SUMMARY SHOWING TONNAGE OF VESSELS ENTERED AND CLEARED.

—	British.						Foreign.						Steam.	Sailing.	Total.
	Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.			Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.					
	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Total.	Total.	
Antigua	211,988	211,988	423,976	7,606	7,480	15,086	3,828	3,828	7,656	2,305	2,569	4,874	431,632	19,960	451,592
St. Kitts ...	199,675	199,675	399,850	6,638	6,647	13,285	11,871	11,871	23,742	5,887	5,948	11,835	423,592	25,120	448,212
Nevis	34,425	34,425	68,850	1,399	1,313	2,712	—	—	—	277	216	493	68,850	3,205	72,055
Anguilla	—	—	—	1,424	1,454	2,878	—	—	—	34	34	68	—	2,946	2,946
Dominica	220,432	220,432	440,864	3,945	3,919	7,864	7,561	7,561	15,122	1,918	1,918	3,836	455,986	11,700	467,686
Montserrat ...	89,804	89,804	179,608	6,257	6,260	12,517	2,871	2,871	5,742	441	422	863	185,350	13,380	198,780
V. Islands... ...	—	—	—	5,468	5,486	10,954	—	—	—	561	561	1,122	—	12,076	12,076
Total	756,324	756,324	1,512,648	32,737	32,559	65,296	26,131	26,131	52,262	11,423	11,668	23,091	1,564,910	88,387	1,653,297

Comparing the above figures with those for 1899 there appears an increase of 29,108 tons in steam vessels in 1900 and a decrease of 3,028 tons in sailing vessels.

If we examine the figures for each individual Presidency with those of 1899, it will be found that in Antigua there was an increase of 13,912 tons in steam vessels and a decrease of 6,479 tons in sailing vessels.

In St. Kitts-Nevis (including Anguilla) there was an increase of 3,420 tons in steam vessels and a decrease of 476 tons in sailing vessels.

In Dominica there was an increase of 916 tons in steam vessels and an increase of 1,784 tons in sailing vessels.

In Montserrat there was an increase of 10,860 tons in steam vessels and an increase of 1,441 in sailing vessels.

In the Virgin Islands there was an increase of 702 tons in sailing vessels.

The following table shows the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in each Presidency during each of the last five years, including both steam and sailing vessels, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1900 as compared with the previous year.

Presidency.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	Increase 1900 over 1899.	Decrease 1900 under 1899.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	468,612	445,948	429,168	444,159	451,592	7,433	—
St. Kitts-Nevis	473,407	491,629	501,878	520,269	523,213	2,944	—
Dominica	401,051	407,460	456,998	464,986	467,686	2,700	—
Montserrat	276,272	228,715	208,430	186,429	198,730	12,301	—
Virgin Islands	11,924	11,545	11,307	11,374	12,076	702	—
Total of Colony	1,631,266	1,585.297	1,607,781	1,627,217	1,653,297	26,080	—

Net increase in 1900 over 1899 26,080 tons.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands passed seven Acts during the year 1900. Of these the most important were: Act No. 1 of 1900, "An Act to authorise the adoption "or establishment of a system of insurance of postal packets and "parcels, and to validate certain things already done in con-"nection with the same subject matter," and Act No. 7 of 1900, "An Act to amend Act No. 2 of 1882, intituled 'An Act for the "'union of the Presidencies of Saint Christopher and Nevis,'" by which the Legislative Council of Saint Christopher and Nevis was reduced to six "official members" and six "unofficial members," with the Governor and Administrator.

In Antigua, 18 Ordinances were passed, of which the more important were: No. 9, by which the income tax of 3 per cent. levied on official salaries by Ordinance No. 6 of 1899 was reduced to 1½ per cent. on those salaries not exceeding £100 per annum. No. 11, consolidating and amending the law relating to contagious diseases among animals. No. 16, to amend the law relating to the distillation and disposal of spirits.

In St. Kitts-Nevis, 11 Ordinances were passed, eight in Dominica, ten in Montserrat, and seven in the Virgin Islands, one of which, No. 5, "An Ordinance to regulate the grant of "mining leases of Crown lands, and the grant of licenses to "explore and prospect on Crown lands for minerals," was disallowed.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(*a*.) PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The number of children on the rolls of the primary schools for the year 1900 amounted to 24,974, as against 24,879 during the previous year, showing an increase of 95; the average attendance being 11,009, as against 12,046, being a decrease of 1,037.

The following table shows the number on roll, the average attendance, school fees, Government grant and voluntary contributions, for the last five years.

—	1895.	1896	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
Number on roll	25,120	25,439	25,022	25,121	24,879	24,974
Average attendance	12,402	12,894	12,438	11,745	12,046	11,009
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
School fees	543 1 7	465 0 11	331 14 9	228 3 10	180 4 9	129 4 11
Government grant	7,177 4 6	7,240 18 8	7,090 3 3	6,223 7 11	6,138 10 2	6,180 13 9
Voluntary contributions ...	683 12 5	934 10 11	532 19 6	563 6 1	568 16 7	369 3 6

(*b*.) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

There are two secondary schools in Antigua, (1) the Antigua Grammar School which receives a grant of £200. There were 40 boys on the roll for 1900 with an average attendance of 37. (2) The Antigua Girl's High School which receives a grant of £100 per annum. There were 35 girls on the roll during the year and an average attendance of 33.

In Dominica the Roseau Grammar School is maintained by the Government.

Antigua and Dominica are centres for the Cambridge Local Examinations.

Examinations are also held in Antigua for the various degrees in Arts and Law of the University of London.

(c.) INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL, OR AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

The Skerrett's (Boys) Training School is now limited as far as possible to 100 boys, but there were actually 105 inmates remaining at the school on the 31st December, 1900. Of these, 74 were natives of Antigua, 15 of St. Kitts, eight of Nevis, five of Anguilla, and three of Montserrat.

The other Presidencies pay Antigua at the rate of £10 per annum for each boy sent to the school.

In connection with the school is a Government stock farm, in which several of the best strains of horses, cattle, and pigs are kept. This has done much to improve the breed of animals throughout the island. The stock farm is badly supplied with water from ponds on the farm, but it is hoped that the evil will soon be remedied by connecting the farm with Wallings Reservoir. The total expenditure on the stock farm and estate was £417 15*s.* 1*d.*, and the receipts £439 12*s.* 5*d.*

The estimated value of the stock on the farm is £1,583.

The superintendent of the school is also agricultural superintendent in charge of the cane experiments being carried on under the direction of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. An auction sale of new seedling canes was held in December last, when 120,000 cane plants of different varieties were sold to planters in the island.

The Bourbon cane, which was the old stock cane, has been superseded almost entirely by new varieties, which have been found to be less susceptible to the ravages of rind, fungus, and moth borer.

The rainfall on the estate was 46·68 inches.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(a.) HOSPITALS.

The following table shows in a summarized form the number of patients admitted in 1900 into the various hospitals throughout the Colony, the number discharged from these Institutions, and the number of deaths which took place:—

Hospitals.	Number in Hospital on 1st January 1900.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua	179	1,492	717	456	—	314
Cunningham, St. Kitts	119	865	438	182	73	117
Nevis	43	106	63	25	3	29
Dominica	39	534	417	47	5	46
Montserrat (Chateau)	78	54	36	15	7	13
" (Hospital)	6	52	31	14	5	6

A new hospital is very much needed in Antigua. The site of the present hospital, which is immediately to windward of Government House and the City of St. John's, has many disadvantages, and the old and dilapidated buildings now occupied as wards are quite unsuited for the purposes of a hospital.

(b.) LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

The following table gives the statistics of the lunatic asylums for the year:—

Asylum.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1900.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Rat Island	80	39	24	—	—	14
Ridge	36	5	—	—	1	4

The Scotts Hill buildings in Antigua, lately occupied as a training school for girls, are being converted into a lunatic asylum, and the necessary arrangements for the more advanced treatment of lunacy are being carried out.

LEPER ASYLUMS.

Asylums.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1900.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua	40	6	—	1	—	5
St. Kitts	64	6	—	1	—	8

As soon as the necessary alterations are completed at Scotts Hill for the reception of the lunatics, the lepers will be transferred to the quarters now occupied as a lunatic asylum at Rat Island.

(c.) POOR HOUSE.

In Antigua there were 104 persons in the Poor House on the 1st January, 1900. During the year 64 were admitted and 53 discharged.

The number of persons who received out-door poor relief was 1,081, the total amount spent being £609.

(d.) REFORMATORIES.

(*See* under Education—Training Schools.)

(e.) SAVINGS BANKS.

There are savings' banks in all the Presidencies with the exception of the Virgin Islands. The total amount to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1900, was as follows:—

Antigua	£41,722
St. Kitts	8,893
Nevis	2,402
Dominica	6.787
Montserrat	3,374
	£63,178

The amount deposited during the year was £23,586, as against withdrawals amounting to £23,763.

The number of depositors on the 31st December, 1900, was 2,429; 3 per cent. is the rate of interest allowed.

The amount of funds invested on behalf of the savings' banks of the Colony is £63,380.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(*a.*) POLICE.

The armed Police Force of the Leeward Islands numbered, on the 31st December last, 209 officers and men, viz., 1 Inspector-General, 3 Inspectors, 3 Sergeant-Majors, 202 other Non-commissioned officers and men. Of these, 1 Inspector, 1 Sergeant-Major, and 67 other Non-commissioned officers and men were stationed in Antigua, including 1 Sergeant in Barbuda; 1 Inspector, 1 Sergeant-Major, and 60 other Non-commissioned officers and men in St. Kitts-Nevis; 1 Inspector and 34 Non-commissioned officers and men in Dominica; 1 Sergeant-Major and 40 other Non-commissioned officers and men in Montserrat; and 1 second class private in the Virgin Islands. In June, 1899, in consequence of serious disturbances and resistance offered to the Police in Montserrat, in connection with searches for, and seizure of, illicit rum-stills, the division in that Presidency had to be temporarily increased by 20 men, makng a total strength of 41 Non-commissioned officers and men. These, however, are being gradually reduced.

(*b.*) PRISONS.

The total number of prisoners received during the year 1900 was 2,165, being 393 in excess of the previous year. Of these, 1,229 were males, 921 females, and 15 juveniles.

There were five deaths during the year, as follows:—two from kidney disease, one from enteritis, one from peritonitis (the above four died in the Holberton Hospital, to which they had been transferred), and one, a female, from rupture of an enlarged spleen, in the prison. The total number of prisoners received during the year at the Central Prison in Antigua was 892, of whom 553 were males and 339 females. The number of committals from Antigua in 1900 is exceptionally high, and exceeds that of any year during the last decade, as the following table will show:—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1891	496	232	728
1892	363	209	563
1893	419	213	632
1894	325	253	578
1895	482	243	725
1896	324	264	588
1897	348	184	532
1898	363	217	580
1899	341	206	547
1900	522	335	857

The increase in the number of females committed in Antigua is specially noticeable, and may be due to the fact that the labour allotted to them in prison is of too easy a nature now that stone-breaking cannot be enforced as one of the tasks for females.

Thirty-one male prisoners were committed to prison during the year who had been formerly inmates of Skerret's school.

The prisoners are employed in cooking, baking bread for the public institutions, making and mending prison clothing and bedding, and washing, also quarrying, stone-breaking, stone-cutting, &c., &c.

The transfers from the other Presidencies were as follows:—

Presidency.	Males.	Females.	Total.
St. Kitts-Nevis	15	4	19
Dominica	4	—	4
Montserrat...	11	1	12

The following shows the number of cases treated by the prison surgeon during the year:—

Skin diseases ...	10	Rheumatism and allied diseases	59
Gastro-intestinal diseases	120	Filarial disease ...	1
Pulmonary diseases ...	51	Fevers	51
Heart disease ...	4	Abscesses, ulcers, &c.	20
Debility	10	Headache, vertigo, &c.	15
Hernia	7	Slight injuries ...	9
Eye diseases	6	Malingering ...	58
Genito-urinary diseases	14		

Making a total of 435 cases treated for the year.

(c.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The following table shows the total number of offences reported to the police during each of the last five years, together with the convictions and acquittals in each year:—

Year.	Offences reported.	Convicted.	Acquitted, died awaiting trial, or nolle prosequi entered.
1896 ...	15,128	5,962	8,959
1897 ...	13,261	5,837	7,258
1898 ...	12,813	5,613	7,105
1899 ...	13,358	6,808	6,449
1900 ...	13,160	7,855	5,763

Of the 13,160 offences reported during 1900, 3,244 were for offences against the person, 1,431 prædial larceny, 1,523 against property (other than prædial larceny), while the remaining 6,962 comprised all other offences.

Summary convictions were recorded against 7,771 persons in the Magistrates' courts, the number of persons convicted by the Superior courts being 84.

In the Magistrates' courts 5,718 persons were acquitted, while the number acquitted in the Superior courts was 28, a *nolle prosequi* was entered in 16 cases, and one prisoner died while awaiting trial.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(*a.*) POPULATION.

The aggregate returns from the Registrars of the various Presidencies show a total for the Colony of 4,706 births, 4,637 deaths, and 438 marriages.

The Census of 1891 gave a total population for the Colony of 127,723, and, adding on the number of births in excess of deaths between the date of the Census and the 31st December, 1899, we obtain as the present population of the Colony an apparent total of 141,645. In the absence of statistics of immigration and emigration, the latter of which has been considerable in Antigua, the above total is unreliable.

The following summary shows the population of each island of the Colony as on the 31st December, 1899 (subject to the differences caused by emigration) together with the births and deaths in each case:—

Island.	Population on 31st December 1899.	Births.	Deaths.	Net Increase in 1900.	Net Decrease in 1900.
Antigua ...	37,541	1,248	1,266	—	18
Barbuda ...	710	40	24	16	—
St. Kitts ...	33,628	1,154	941	213	—
Nevis	15,305	568	294	274	—
Anguilla ...	4,431	158	55	103	—
Dominica ...	30,557	941	764	177	—
Montserrat ...	14,033	424	188	236	—
Virgin Islands ...	5,440	173	105	68	—
Total ...	141,645	4,706	3,637	1,087	18

(*b.*) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The following table shows the death rate of the Colony per 1,000 during the past five years. It will be observed that the

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1900.

death-rate in 1900 was 3·30 below that of the last year, and about equal to the average of the last five years:—

Year.	Population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1896 ...	136,034	3,404	25·02
1897 ...	138,069	3,215	23·28
1898 ...	139,512	3,601	25·88
1899 ...	140,576	4,074	28·98
1900 ...	141,645	3,637	25·68

Average death-rate per 1,000 during the last five years, 25·77.

(c.) SANITATION.

Sanitary Boards exist in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat, by which provision is made for the enforcement of the usual sanitary regulations. In the town of St. John's, Antigua, the dry earth privy system, with frequent removal of excreta, has been introduced, and is gradually being extended. The villages are kept clear of weeds. In the Presidencies of St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat, there is an abundant supply of good water carried by pipes to the towns. In Antigua, while the town of St. John's has a fair water supply, the country villages are exceedingly badly supplied with water by ponds, which can only be cleared out in very dry weather. A scheme for the distribution of the water from Wallings reservoir to some of the worst-supplied of the country districts is now being carried out, the balance of the Public Works Loan of 1893 having been appropriated for this purpose, together with the sum of £7,600 received from the sale of the dredger "Pholas," which has been credited to the loan.

(d.) CLIMATE.

(1) *Rainfall.*

The average rainfall recorded at the 64 stations in Antigua during the year 1900 was 36·95 inches. The average rainfall for 27 years was 45·66, so that the rainfall for 1900 was 8·71 inches below the average.

In St. Kitts the rainfall recorded at the United States weather bureau in Basseterre was 38·00 inches.

In Dominica the average rainfall recorded at 13 stations on the leeward coast was 96·87 inches; the average for six stations

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1900.

on the windward coast being 98·56 inches. The greatest amount of rain recorded at any station on the leeward coast was 248·27 inches, and on the windward coast 138·20 inches.

In Montserrat the average rainfall recorded at seven stations was 42·68 inches; the highest at any station being 51·67 inches and the lowest 35·95 inches.

(2) *Temperature.*

In Antigua the highest shade temperature during the year recorded at the Government Laboratory, St. John's, was 91, in September and October, and the lowest 69, in January; the average readings being 82·2 at 9 a.m. and 84 at 3 p.m.

In St. Kitts the maximum temperature was 89, in October, and the minimum 67, in August, while the average readings were 80·4 at 8 a.m., and 78·3 at 8 p.m.

In Montserrat the highest temperature recorded was 93, in October, and the lowest 70, in February and June.

Direction and Force of Wind.

The prevailing direction of the wind in the Leeward Islands is east, with occasional variations to north-east and east-north-east. The average velocity during the year was 7·1 miles per hour in Antigua, 10·3 in St. Kitts, and 5·4 in Dominica.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The following table shows the statistics of postal matter sent to and from the Colony during the last five years:—

Year.	Letters and Cards received and sent.	Books and Papers received and sent.	Parcels received and sent.
1896	469,098	153,800	5,936
1897	362,433	151,853	5,430
1898	375,963	155,664	6,061
1899	491,616	184,327	6,746
1900	452,137	168,820	7,079

Comparing the figures for 1900 with those for 1899, we find a decrease of 39,479 letters and cards received and sent, 15,507 books and papers received and sent, and an increase of 333 parcels received and sent.

The total value of Money Orders issued in the Colony was £27,646, as compared with £29,891 in 1899, being a decrease of £2,245, while the value of orders cashed in the Colony amounted to £14,542, as against £15,519 in 1899, being a decrease of £977.

The subsidies paid to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company amount to £1,600 per annum, of which Antigua pays £600, St. Kitts-Nevis £600, and Dominica £400. There is no telegraphic communication with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands, but hopes are entertained of its being established in the case of the former island in the near future.

The Direct West India Cable Company's cable is also laid as far as Jamaica, viâ Halifax and Bermuda, the line passing entirely through British territory. By either route telegrams can be sent to all parts of the world. The charge to the United Kingdom is 4*s.* 7½*d.* per word, with a preferential rate for Government telegrams of 3*s.* 1½*d.* per word.

Telephone systems are in operation in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts, there being in the former island 275 miles of wire and 142 instruments in use, and in the latter 204 miles of wire and 79 instruments in use.

The expenditure in Antigua on the telephone system in 1900 was £775, and the receipts £695. In St. Kitts the expenditure was £456, and the receipts £337.

In Dominica several of the public offices are connected by telephone, and it is hoped shortly to extend the system around the island.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

(*a.*) REGULAR FORCES.

(None.)

(*b.*) MILITIA.

(None.)

(*c.*) VOLUNTEER.

Volunteer defence forces have been established in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis.

In Antigua the force was established on the occasion of Her late Majesty's Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

The St. John's Mounted Infantry and Infantry Companies, armed with Martini-Enfield rifles, numbered, on the 31st December, 1900, 83 officers and men.

In St. Kitts-Nevis a volunteer defence force has been established since 1896, and numbered, on the 31st December, 1900, 103 officers and men.

The force is divided into three Companies. A. Company for Basseterre, B. Company for country districts, St. Kitts, and C. Company for Nevis.

The expenditure in Antigua on the defence force in 1900 was £338, and in St. Kitts-Nevis £908.

The arms are on loan from the Imperial Government.

(*d.*) CONSTABULARY (or Semi-Military Colonial Force).

(*See* Police.)

X.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Sir George Melville, K.C.M.G., administered the Government of the Leeward Islands from the 17th August to the 27th November, during the absence on leave of Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., and Mr. Gordon, Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretariat, acted as Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Foster acted as Colonial Secretary from the 1st January to the 3rd May, during the absence on leave of Sir George Melville, K.C.M.G.

Mr. Whyham acted as Auditor-General from the 1st January to the 3rd May, from the 8th June to the 3rd July, and from the 14th November to the end of the year.

Mr. Whyham also acted as Administrator of Dominica from the 4th July to the 13th November, during Mr. Bell's absence on leave, when Mr. Auchinleck acted as Auditor-General and Mr. E. R. Jones as Treasurer.

Mr. Purcell acted as Attorney-General from the 31st August to the 10th November, during the absence on leave of Mr. Stoker.

During Mr. Evelyn's absence on leave, from the 22nd January to 21st April, Mr. R. K. Dyett performed the combined duties of Magistrate of Districts A. and B.

Mr. Dyett also acted as Magistrate of District A. from 1st January to the 2nd May, and from the 8th June to the end of the year.

Mr. A. E. Eldridge, Postmaster, Antigua, acted as Magistrate, District H. (Nevis), from 1st January to 8th February, during Mr. Roden's absence on leave. Mr. A. C. K. Tibbits acted as Postmaster.

Mr. F. H. Watkins was appointed Commissioner and Treasurer, Montserrat, on the 1st January, 1900, and Mr. C. M. Martin succeeded Mr. Watkins as Inspector of Schools in May.

Dr. Norris, Medical Officer, District No. 2, Montserrat, was appointed Medical Superintendent of the Holberton Hospital, Antigua, in August, and was succeeded by Dr. W. McDonald.

Mr. O. Nugent was appointed as Acting Magistrate (Barbuda), District L., in August, 1900.

Mr. J. D. Wall was appointed, in May, 1900, as Federal Accountant and Chief Audit Clerk, in the place of Mr. D. S. Macgregor, who was appointed as Auditor of British Honduras.

Sir Henry T. Wrenfordsley, Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands, proceeded on leave on the 28th September with a view to retiring.

XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The year 1900 was somewhat barren of incident, and much depression was felt in the sugar producing islands of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis owing to the short crop and the severe drought experienced.

The erection of central factories as the sole hope of restoring the sugar industry of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Montserrat, has been so fully discussed that further advocacy of this most important subject would appear to be but repetition. The antiquated machinery and the obsolete methods now employed in the manufacture of sugar in these islands should years ago have been replaced by modern factories, but year after year no improvement takes place, the crops become shorter, and hundreds of acres of what were formerly valuable cane lands are now thrown out of cultivation. A very large proportion of the best artizans and labourers has left, and still continue to leave, Antigua in search of employment elsewhere as now there is no inducement for them to remain owing to the small wages which they receive. The export of sugar for the Colony in 1900 exhibited a decrease of 7,431 tons as compared with the previous year. In Antigua the crop was the smallest, except in the year

1898 (when there was a very severe drought) and in St. Kitts-Nevis the smallest during the last decade.

Mr. W. M. Mackison, C.E., arrived in Antigua early in the year to carry to completion the scheme for the supply of water to the country districts in connection with the Wallings reservoir. The reservoir, with a capacity of 11,000,000 gallons approximately, has been finished, and the laying of the pipes throughout the island will be commenced next year, and it is hoped that this important work will be completed early in 1902.

The Presidency of St. Christopher-Nevis was able to avoid any retrograde movement during the year. The hurricane of August, 1899, had so seriously damaged the young canes that the crop of 1900 amounted to only 7,451 tons, against an average of 12,000. Nevertheless, the revenue was well maintained, and, owing to various economies in expenditure, the deficit was the smallest for many years. The ravages of the hurricane were repaired by grants from the Mansion House Fund, the Imperial Parliament, and private donors, and included the rebuilding of five large schools, loans to five estates in Nevis to repair their works, patching or rebuilding of between 2,000 and 3,000 labourers' huts, and the renovation of piers, jetties, and other public buildings.

A great deal of useful legislative work was done during the year, and included the consolidation of the laws relating to various subjects, such as Trade and Revenue, Land and House Tax, Liquor Licenses, &c. An Ordinance was also passed to confer municipal government on the town of Basseterre (numbered 1 of 1901), but difficulties have arisen in connection therewith, which, it is hoped, will shortly be removed, and an efficient Town Board formed. The issue of Bills of Health was also placed on a proper footing.

Additional revenue was raised to provide for a permanent supply of Ice, and a Grammar School, both of which have since been provided.

The year 1900 was one of steady progress and increased prosperity for Dominica. The value of the exports exceeded by £2,666 those of the preceding year, and reached the highest figure attained during the past twenty years. The imports were worth nearly £10,000 more than in 1899, and they exceeded those of any year recorded. It is particularly satisfactory to note that these results were not due to any fortuitous or abnormal inflation in the market prices of the staple products, but may justly be ascribed to a steady growth in the various industries and to the gradual development of the island's resources. The exports of cocoa, in particular, were double those of ten years ago, while the out-put of limes and their products has increased three-fold during the same period. Dominica has, for many years, been the world's chief producer of lime juice, and the area under cultivation of limes is being largely extended. Sugar has fallen to the rank of a very minor product, while the manufacture of rum is now not even sufficient for local requirements. The export of fruit is assuming considerable proportions, and the cultivation of oranges, pineapples, and bananas is attracting the attention of small capitalists.

The revenue for 1900 was the highest ever recorded in Dominica. Irrespective of the Imperial Grant for botanic services, it amounted to £28,113, being £2,751 in excess of the estimate. The expenditure having been restricted to a total considerably below the revenue, Dominica received no portion of the Imperial Grant in aid of deficits, and the accounts of the year closed with a surplus exceeding £5,000. During the past seven years the public debt of the Presidency has been reduced from £70,900 to £58,800.

A number of works of public utility were carried out in Dominica during 1900. The Roseau Hospital was provided with a proper drainage system, and its exterior was painted. The police barracks were re-roofed, and the men's quarters somewhat improved. The roof of Government House and out-buildings were partly re-shingled. The jetty at Portsmouth was re-constructed. A new school-house was erected at Dublanc. A section of sea wall was built at Point Michael. Four miles of road leading to Roseau were thoroughly re-constructed, and rendered fit for wheeled traffic. About four miles of road were also constructed in the interior, at the cost of the Imperial Grant for opening up the Crown lands.

During the year 1900 there was a marked influx of Englishmen possessed of moderate capital, many of whom either purchased estates already in cultivation or selected blocks of Crown Lands that are being rendered accessible by the new Imperial Road. Over 2,000 acres of the new lands in the interior were sold during the year, and there is reason to believe that a great future lies in the possibilities of the vast areas of virgin soil known as the Layou Flats.

In Montserrat the early part of the year saw the restoration of the estate works, churches, and public buildings destroyed by the hurricane of the 7th August, 1899; 22 estate works were rebuilt by loans advanced by the Imperial Government, and ten schools, two police stations, the gaol, the public market, and the poor house were restored by Imperial Grants.

The cultivation of the lime estates destroyed was also recommenced.

Up to the middle of the year the weather was fairly seasonable, but, after July, the island experienced the severest period of drought on record. For four days in October shocks of earthquakes were felt, the series culminating in one which damaged several houses and public buildings.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture established a station of six acres and two district plots at Harris Village and Olveston, from which many thousands of plants were distributed among the sufferers by the hurricane.

The want of steam communication with the Virgin Islands is much felt, and it is difficult to see how any well organized scheme for the development of these islands can be carried out in its absence.

EDWARD B. JARVIS,
For Colonial Secretary,
Leeward Islands.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Leeward Islands,
26th August, 1901.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 374.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1901-1902.

(For Report for 1900–1901, *see* No. 337.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
December, 1902.

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349	British Guiana	1900–1901
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica	1900–1901
352	Cocos Islands	1901
353	Southern Nigeria	1900
354	Bermuda...	1901
355	Gambia	"
356	Falkland Islands	"
357	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
358	Malta	"
359	Gibraltar	"
360	Straits Settlements	"
361	Sierra Leone	"
362	British Honduras	"
363	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
364	Seychelles	"
365	Bahamas	1901–1902
366	Fiji	1901
367	Ceylon	"
368	Barbados	"
369	Hong Kong	"
370	Cocos Islands	"
371	St. Helena	"
372	British Solomon Islands	1901–1902
373	Jamaica	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand...	Forests
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4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas...	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific...	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada...	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas...	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Wei Hai Wei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.

No. 374.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1900–1901, *see* No. 337.)

ACTING GOVERNOR SIR GEO. MELVILLE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Antigua,
29th September, 1902.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1901–02, together with the usual report thereon and with a covering letter from the Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

GEO. MELVILLE,
Acting Governor.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Antigua,
29th September, 1902.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this Colony embracing the periods from 1st January to 31st March, 1901, and from 1st April, 1901 to 31st March, 1902, together with a Report thereon which has been prepared by Mr. Edward B. Jarvis, Chief Clerk of this Office, for transmission to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.,

E. ALEXANDER FOSTER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
Sir George Melville, K.C.M.G.,
Acting Governor-in-Chief,
Leeward Islands.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1901–2.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The financial year, which has hitherto coincided with the calendar year, now runs from the 1st of April to the 31st of March. The financial returns are accordingly now made up for this period, but in all other returns the calendar year is retained.

(a.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.

The revenue of the Colony for the intermediate period January to March, 1901, amounted to £29,328 (exclusive of Imperial Grants in aid amounting to £4,351) showing a net increase of £1,223 over the amount of £28,105 realised during the corresponding period in the year 1900.

The expenditure amounted to £35,817 as against £33,522 during the corresponding period in 1900, representing an increase of £2,296.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year 1901–2 (exclusive of grants in aid from the Imperial Government amounting to £15,651) was £123,450, showing a net increase of £4,000 over that of the year 1900.

The following table shows the amount of revenue collected in each Presidency during the last five years as also the increase or decrease in 1901–2 as compared with 1900.

Presidency.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901–2.	Increase 1901–2 over 1900.	Decrease 1901–2 under 1900.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ...	46,330	39,663	42,822	42,652	42,067	—	585
St. Kitts-Nevis	45,247	40,430	42,809	39,904	43,793	3,889	—
Dominica ...	23,610	24,570	26,156	28,113	29,598	1,485	—
Montserrat ...	7,906	6,199	6,790	6,664	6,196	—	468
Virgin Islands	1,675	1,715	2,984	2,117	1,796	—	321
Total ...	124,768	112,577	121,561	119,450	123,450	5,374	1,374

Net increase of revenue in 1901–2, as compared with 1900, £4,000.

Turning to the details of revenue under different heads, under the head of "Customs" St. Kitts-Nevis is the only Presidency which shows an increase. This amounts to £1,995, but Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands exhibit decreases of £1,418, £7, £598, and £90 respectively.

Under the head "Port and Harbour Dues" St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands show increases of £635, £39, and £5 respectively, while Antigua shows a decrease of £12, and Dominica of £62.

Under the head "Excise" increases appear in Antigua of £1,507, St. Kitts-Nevis of £66, and Dominica £956.

Under the head "Taxes" there are increases of £374 in St. Kitts-Nevis, £372 in Dominica, and £93 in Montserrat, and decreases of £448 in Antigua, and £27 in the Virgin Islands.

Under the head "Licenses" Dominica and the Virgin Islands exhibit increases of £280 and £45 respectively, while St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat exhibit decreases of £256 and £12 respectively; the revenue derived from this source in Antigua being the same as in the previous year.

Under the head "Rates" there is a total decrease of £266 for the Colony and a decrease of £176 under head "Miscellaneous."

Expenditure.

The total expenditure for the year 1901–2 is returned at £132,897 as against £131,973 for the year 1900, showing an increase of £924.

The following table shows the expenditure of each Presidency for each of the last five years as also the increase or decrease in 1901–2 as compared with 1900 :—

Presidency.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901–2.	Increase 1901–2 over 1900.	Decrease 1901–2 under 1900.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ...	53,417	55,586	51,959	49,435	48,514	—	921
St. Kitts-Nevis	51,775	44,659	47,415	43,964	44,135	171	—
Dominica ...	24,062	24,648	25,083	26,780	28,012	1,232	—
Montserrat ...	9,895	11,936	16,608	9,597	10,312	715	—
Virgin Islands	1,777	1,783	2,220	2,197	1,924	—	273
Total ...	140,926	138,612	143,285	131,973	132,897	2,118	1,194

Net increase of expenditure in 1901–2, as compared with 1900, £924.

A comparison of the items of expenditure in the Presidencies taken collectively during the year 1901–2 with those of 1900, shows that increases or decreases occur under the following heads.

"Pensions." The decrease of £679 is due to the deaths of pensioners paid from Presidential funds.

"Island Secretary" shows an increase of £252 due to the annual incremental allowances to the administrators of St. Kitts-Nevis and Dominica.

"Federal Contribution." The increase of £371 is accounted for by the increased Federal pensions and the transfer of the expenses of the laboratory in Antigua to "Federal Expenditure."

The decrease of £118 under "Magistrates" is owing to the abolition of one of the district magistracies in Dominica.

A large decrease will be observed under "Police" amounting to £714. This is due to the reduction of the number of police stationed in Montserrat to 20 non-commissioned officers and men, and to various economies which have been effected in the department.

Under "Prisons" owing to the largely reduced number of prisoners a saving has taken place of £201. The number of persons committed to the central prison during the year was 459 as against 857 during 1900, and is the lowest number of committals during the last ten years.

Under "Medical" there is an apparent decrease of £222 owing to the salaries of several of the medical officers who were on leave not having been drawn within the financial year.

Under "Education" a decrease of £461 has taken place consequent on the reduction in the number of boys sent to the Skerrett's Training School and the closing of the technical school in Antigua.

A large increase of £1,457 is observed under "Board of Health." An additional grant of £770 was made to the Basseterre Town Improvement Commissioners and £350 was spent in St. Kitts-Nevis in repairing damage to roads caused by the heavy rains. The Antigua Waterworks were transferred to the St. John's City Board and some expenditure incurred in cleaning ponds used for drinking purposes in the country districts.

The decrease under "Military" of £514 is due to the fact that the capitation grants to the members of the Defence Forces were not earned.

The decrease of £896 under "Public Works Department" is explained by the transfer to Head 16, "Board of Health," of the expenditure of the Basseterre Water Works, and by a similar transfer as regards the Antigua Water Works to the St. John's City Board.

Increased expenditure on roads in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis consequent on the heavy rains, and in Dominica on roads and bridges, and the fact that the transfer of the Water Works in Dominica to the Roseau Town Board was not effected during the year explain the increase of £734 under "Public Works Recurrent."

Briefly reviewed, expenditure in Antigua, including Barbuda, shows a decrease in 1901–1902 of £921, in St. Kitts-Nevis an increase of £171, in Dominica an increase of £1,232, in Montserrat an increase of £716, and in the Virgin Islands a decrease of £273 as compared with that of 1900.

(*b*.) Changes in Taxation.

There were no changes in taxation during the year, except in the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis.

By the Liquor License Consolidation Ordinance No. 8 of 1901, licenses in Charlestown, Nevis, were increased from £12 to £13 15*s*. per quarter, and licenses in Anguilla were decreased from £2 10*s*. to £1 per quarter. A new license to the proprietor of an hotel to sell all liquor, except rum, by retail to be consumed on the premises at £10 per annum was imposed. An additional House Tax at the rate of 6-10ths of 1 per cent. per annum on the capital value of all properties in the Town of Basseterre was imposed in October, 1901, for the payment of interest and sinking fund on the balance of the Basseterre Improvement Loan. The annual revenue from this tax is estimated at £400.

(c.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

LEEWARD ISLANDS (GENERAL GOVERNMENT).

Statement of Liabilities and Assets on 31st March, 1902.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Barbados Money Order Account ...	133 12 0		Bermuda Money Order Account...	914 13 9	
Jamaica „ „ „ ...	32 8 0	166 10 0	British Guiana „ „ ...	21 5 9	
St. Kitts-Nevis (Current Account) ...	901 3 3		United States „ „ „ ...	196 17 8	
Dominica „ „ ...	167 5 5		Windward Islands „ „ ...	6 11	1,133 4 1
Montserrat „ „ ...	274 9 2	1,342 17 10	Antigua (Current Account) ...	89 17 11	
P. O. Guarantee Fund	16 9 0		Virgin Islands „ „ ...	257 12 0	347 9 11
Land Assurance „	1,919 5 3	1,935 14 3	Police Reward Fund		21 12 7
Drafts and Remittances		94 3 4	Land Assurance Investment Account.		1,800 0 0
General Account		326 15 9	Imperial Government		326 15 9
			Cash (Treasurer)	48 10 7	
			„ (Crown Agents)	188 8 3	236 18 10
		3,866 1 2			3,866 1 2

PRESIDENCY OF ANTIGUA.

Statement of Liabilities and Assets on 31st March, 1902.

Liabilities.	Amount.			Assets.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Deposits on account Money Orders	322	6	2	Advances on Account of Money Orders	118	5	10
" " to Cover Duties	5	14	2	" Botanic Department...	284	0	8
" " Barbuda	36	2	1	" Extradition C. Roberts	64	19	4
" " New Issue of Stamps ...	100	0	0	" Government of Italy	31	5	3
" " Revenue Defence Fund ...	18	19	6	" Collection Land Taxes	10	19	0
" " City Fund	82	2	1	" War Department	122	19	4
" " Prison Officers Fine Fund ...	34	16	2	Balances due by General Government, Leeward Islands.			
" " Official Receiver account, Globe Premises.	525	0	0	" " Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis ...		4	0
" " Package Tax	39	5	10	" " " " Dominica		18	3
Balances due to General Government, Leeward Islands.	93	7	11	" " " " Virgin Islands ...	98	4	2
" " Presidency of Montserrat ...	15	17	4	London and Westminster Bank Deposits Public Works Loan Account.	2,896	3	11
" " Unrepresented Estates ...	54	11	8	Excess of Liabilities	1,757	0	3½
" " Escheated " ...	146	11	6				
" " Bankruptcy " ...	73	9	9				
" " Registrar's unclaimed Balances	13	10	7				
" " Drafts and Remittances ...	45	10	0				
" " Treasurer	1,486	2	7½				
" " Loan Works Balance of Appropriation.	2,291	12	8				
Total	5,385	0	0½	Total	5,385	0	0½

PRESIDENCY OF ST. CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS.

Statement of Liabilities and Assets on 31st March, 1902.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Deposits—F. S. Wigley	2 2 0		Cash Account—		
Estate of De Geneste...	187 12 5		Treasurer's		2,755 5 0
Postmaster	324 1 1		Advances—Personal	747 2 0	
Deposit to secure Duties	13 16 4		Government, British Guiana	45 9 3	
Revenue Defence Fund	86 6 4		General Government, Leeward Islands ...	901 3 3	
Provost Marshal's Deposit Account ...	9 1 7		Presidencies	1 3 2	
Unrepresented Estates	2 5 11				1,694 17 8
Botanic Department	41 18 10		Money Order Accounts—		
Planters' Loan Fund	550 0 0	1,217 4 6	Windward Islands	19 19 3	
Family Remittances		33 6 8	Trinidad	22 13 0	
Money Order Accounts—			British Guiana	15 3 4	
United Kingdom	264 6 0				57 15 7
Leeward Islands	31 7 0		Remittances in Transit		642 0 0
Canada	5 1 3				
United States	58 19 4				
Jamaica	14 0				
Bermuda	587 11 9				
		947 19 4			
Balances due to—					
Public Works Loan of 1891	1,478 1 8				
" " " 1893	608 0 0				
		2,086 1 8			
General Post Office, London		13 11			
Presidencies		7 17 3			
Sinking Funds, Improvement Basseterre...		326 17 6			
Total Liabilities		4,620 0 10			
Excess of Assets		529 17 5			
Total		5,149 18 3	Total		5,149 18 3

PRESIDENCY OF DOMINICA.

Statement of Liabilities and Assets on 31st March, 1902.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Deposits to be repaid to—			Cash—		
Sundry Money Order accounts...	225 18 9		In Colonial Bank on Current Account.	993 6 7	
Registrar and Marshal's deposit account.	16 2 11½		In Treasury Chest	403 15 1½	
Deposits to secure duties ...	9 18 3		In hands of Sub-Accountant ...	374 13 1	1,771 14 9½
Prison Officers' Fine Fund ...	15 13 4				
Plaintiffs' costs deposit account	1 8 6		Investments by Crown Agents ...	—	3,000 0 0
Revenue Defence Fund... ...	167 2 8		Remittances in transit	—	654 5 6
Receiver of Wreck	7 4 6		Advances—		
Postmaster	161 9 0		Sundry Money Order accounts	16 6 11	
Superintendent Crown Lands Fees.	2 10 0	607 7 11½	Other authorised advances ...	46 13 4	63 0 3
Balance due to—			Balances due by—		
Other Presidencies—			His Majesty's Government ...	366 14 3	
Antigua	18 3		General Government, Leeward Islands.	166 13 4½	533 7 7½
St. Kitts-Nevis	1 3 2				
Montserrat	7 1 3				
General Post Office, London ...	6 9 7	15 12 3			
		623 0 2½			
Excess of Assets...	—	5,399 7 11½			
Total		6,022 8 2	Total		6,022 8 2

PRESIDENCY OF MONTSERRAT.

Statement of Liabilities and Assets on 31st March, 1902.

Liabilities.	—			Assets.	—		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Cash	2,096	16	7	Dominica	7	1	3
Unrepresented Estates Reserve Fund Account ...	3	17	9	General Government	274	9	2
Registrar's Deposit Account	12	10	5	Imperial Hurricane Relief Grant Advance Account	291	5	8
Provost Marshal's Deposit Account	3	3	11	United Kingdom Post Office Account	4	8	1
Escheated Estates Account	9	13	6	Antigua	15	17	4
Savings' Bank	5	1	3	St. Kitts-Nevis	6	10	10
Sundry Money Order Accounts	312	5	5	Drafts and Remittances	1,011	13	9
				Botanical Department Advance Account	279	7	0
				Colony of British Guiana	3	13	4
				Sundry Money Order Accounts	65	0	4
				Excess of Liabilities	484	2	1
Total	2,443	8	10	Total	2,443	8	10

PRESIDENCY OF VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Statement of Liabilities and Assets on 31st March, 1902.

Liabilities.	—			Assets.	—		
Sundry Advances—	£	*s.*	*d.*	Sundry Advances—	£	*s.*	*d.*
General Government	257	12	0	Agricultural Department...	219	18	11
Antigua	98	4	2	Agricultural Instructor	12	10	0
General Post Office, London	29	11	7	St. Kitts-Nevis	1	2	5
Sundry Deposits—				Colonial Bank Antigua Deposit	300	0	0
Unrepresented Estates Account	8	0	9	Crown Agents Current Account...	8	17	7
Provost Marshal's Deposits	1	4	11	Treasurer	81	11	2
Postmaster Deposit	3	14	0	Windward Islands Money Order Account ...	1	8	0
Agricultural Department Produce Account ...	10	4	11				
United States Money Order Accounts	14	15	0				
	423	7	4				
Excess of Assets	202	0	9				
Total	625	8	1	Total...	625	8	1

(*d*.) Public Debt.

The Public Debt of the Colony secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, which, on the 31st December 1900, stood at £293,321 was at the close of 1901 reduced to £286,321, £100 having been paid on account of the Antigua Savings' Bank Loan of 1881, £1,700 on account of the Basseterre Improvement Loan, 1891, £200 on account of the Montserrat Water Works Loan of 1879, and £5,000 on account of the Dominica Water Works Loan of 1875 and 1877.

There is no public debt in the Virgin Islands.

The following table shows the individual liabilities of the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica and Montserrat, with a column showing the amounts to the credit of the various Sinking Fund Accounts on the 31st December, 1901.

Presidency.	Debt.	To Credit of Sinking Fund.
	£	£
Antigua	136,971	24,051
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	72,250	7,058
Dominica	65,900	8,461
Montserrat ...	11,200	1,050
Total ...	286,321	40,620

(*e*.) Currency.

There is nothing to be remarked under this head. The Bank rates of Exchange remain unaltered.

(*f*.) Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure of Municipalities.

The Revenue of the St. John's City Board, established under Antigua Ordinance No. 5 of 1898, amounted to £2,915 during the year 1901, as against £2,745 for the previous year, and the Expenditure was £3,127 as against £2,741.

The St. John's City Board, subject to the provisions of Ordinance No. 15 of 1900, took over the control of the Water Works and Fire Brigade on the 1st July, 1901. The Interest and Sinking Fund on the Water Works Loan amount to £848 per annum, £700 of which is paid from General Revenue and the balance from the City Fund. The Board receives an annual Grant in aid from General Revenue of £1,400.

The Board has not been able to carry out extensive sanitary work through want of funds, but a marked improvement has been made in several of the departments under its control. Much however, remains to be done to improve the sanitary condition of the City of St. John.

(*g*.) Debts of Municipalities.

The Roseau Town Board of Dominica was established under Act No. 3 of 1896, and its revenue and expenditure have been as follows :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1896	754	714
1897	929	925
1898	978	964
1899	920	890
1900	1,084	1,033
1901	1,097	1,029

An Ordinance to provide for the Government of the town of Basseterre (St. Kitts) came into force in January 1901, but as no candidates came forward for election as members, a Town Board was not formed, and the affairs of the Town are still administered by the Town Improvement Commissioners under the Ordinance of 1891.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(*a*.) Imports and Exports.

Imports.

The total value of the Imports of the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1901, exclusive of internal trade between the presidencies, amounted to £358,230, as against £346,395 in 1900, being an increase of £11,835.

The following table shows the total value of imports for each of the past five years, distinguishing the countries from which the imports came, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1901 as compared with the previous year,

TOTAL IMPORTS.

Country whence imported.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	Increase 1900.	Decrease 1901 under 1900.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	133,497	134,071	148,393	141,131	160,827	19,696	—
British Colonies	41,694	41,308	45,259	55,810	51,441	—	4,369
United States of America...	124,064	113,864	137,224	140,022	137,496	—	2,526
Other Foreign Countries	13,402	10,733	9,236	9,432	8,466	—	966
Total	312,657	299,976	340,112	346,395	358,230	19,696	7,861

Net increase in value of Imports in 1901, as compared with 1900, £11,835.

The return of internal trade between the presidencies shows a total value of goods exchanged or imported of £17,594 as against £25,786 during the previous year, showing a decrease of £8,192. The figures for the quinquennial period 1897 to 1901 are as follows :—

1897, £13,096 ; 1898, £12,119 ; 1899, £25,255 ; 1900, £25,786 ; 1901, £17,594.

The following summary of imports gives the aggregate value of the various articles or goods imported during each of the last five years, showing also the increase or decrease in 1901 as compared with the previous year :—

SUMMARY OF IMPORTS.

Articles.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	Increase 1901 over 1900.	Decrease 1901 under 1900.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Live Animals	987	2,425	1,954	1,210	2,108	898	—
Foodstuffs	132,320	132,728	141,192	140,507	135,623	—	4,884
Drinks	11,443	9,375	9,629	10,192	9,346	—	846
Narcotics	3,722	3,142	3,377	3,181	3,659	478	—
Raw Materials	9,947	8,310	16,029	15,717	17,359	1,642	—
Manufactured Articles, Textile	67,688	62,872	74,876	64,677	86,534	21,857	—
Do. Metal	16,912	13,081	16,994	24,430	21,546	—	2,884
Other Manufactures	69,540	63,448	74,712	77,319	79,953	2,634	—
	312,551	295,381	338,763	337,233	356,128	27,509	8,614
Coin and Bullion	106	4,595	1,349	9,162	2,102	—	7,060
Total	312,657	299,976	340,112	346,395	358,230	27,509	15,674

Total increase of £11,835 in 1901.

EXPORTS.

The total value of exports during the year 1901, exclusive of internal trade between the presidencies, was £307,344, as against £279,020 in 1900, being an increase of £28,324.

The following table gives the total value of exports during each of the last five years distinguishing the countries to which the various articles were exported, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1901, as compared with 1900.

Total Exports.

Countries to which exported.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	Increase 1901 over 1900.	Decrease 1901 under 1900.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	49,582	62,563	60,207	61,673	60,374	—	1,299
British Colonies	58,925	28,075	41,722	45,547	48,071	2,524	—
United States of America...	223,150	178,348	234,254	154,121	183,696	29,575	—
Other Foreign Countries	16,839	17,417	15,246	17,679	15,203	—	2,476
Total	328,496	286,403	351,429	279,020	307,344	32,099	3,775

The above table shows a net increase of £28,324 in the total value of exports during the year 1901, as compared with the previous year.

The increase of £29,575 in exports to the United States of America is accounted for by the increase in the output of sugar which was 6,606 tons more than in the previous year.

The following tabular statement shows the value of the principal exports during the last five years, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1901 as compared with 1900:—

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

Articles of Export.		1897.		1898.		1899.		1900.		1901.		Increase 1901 over 1900.		Decrease 1901 under 1900.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£		£		£		£		£		£		£
Sugar ...	Tons	28,555	236,209	20,065	174,098	22,815	230,029	15,384	157,737	21,990	198,769	6,606	41,032	—	—
Molasses	Puns.	7,483	12,506	4,204	8,595	7,292	20,152	6,142	22,853	7,055	15,808	913	—	—	7,045
Rum ...	Galls.	62,686	2,265	48,451	1,579	28,721	1,554	15,352	1,003	53,248	2,317	37,896	1,314	—	—
Coffee ...	lbs.	20,533	722	21,958	537	16,037	377	5,957	207	5,306	170	—	—	651	37
Cocoa ...	lbs.	593,680	9,007	1,112,862	26,362	868,441	20,372	1,036,173	24,285	976,952	22,898	—	—	59,221	1,387
Lime and Juice.	Lime	—	24,514	—	25,753	—	32,780	—	32,277	—	33,517	—	1,240	—	—
Total ...			285,223		236,924		305,264		238,362		273,479		43,586		8,469

From the preceding table it will be noticed that there was an increase in the export of sugar amounting to 6,606 tons valued at £41,032. From the Presidency of Dominica only 152 tons of sugar were exported, showing clearly that the sugar industry in that Island has been almost entirely superseded by the cultivation of cocoa and limes.

There was an increase of 913 puncheons of molasses but a decrease of £7,045 in value. The price of this article fluctuates considerably, for, as pointed out in last year's Report, there was in 1900 a decrease of 1,150 puncheons of molasses with an increase of value amounting to £2,701.

The export of rum from St. Kitts-Nevis showed an increase over 1900 of £37,895 gallons in quantity and £1,314 in value.

There was a decrease of 1,923 lbs. in the output of coffee in Dominica as also a decrease of 59,221 lbs. in cocoa. Dominica exported lime juice to the value of £32,313 as against £31,603 in 1900, while Montserrat's export of this article amounted to £1,110 as against £368 in 1900, showing that the lime culture in that Presidency has already commenced to exhibit rapid signs of recovery from the disastrous effects of the hurricane of 1899.

The following table shows the export of sugar from each Presidency during the decennial period 1892-1901 :—

EXPORT OF SUGAR FROM EACH PRESIDENCY.

Presidency.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	15,302	14,566	12,342	7,219	15,100	12,744	6,928	10,041	7,603	9,091
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	17,872	17,042	16,896	18,894	14,804	14,435	12,387	11,943	7,451	12,133
Dominica	2,215	1,474	1,050	844	844	565	339	278	107	152
Montserrat	2,509	1,660	1,694	631	1,672	810	411	553	223	579
Virgin Islands ..	8	4	3	4	1	1	—	—	—	35
Total ...	37,906	34,746	31,985	27,592	32,421	28,555	20,065	22,815	15,384	21,990

The average export of sugar for the last ten years from the Colony of the Leeward Islands is 27,346 tons, so that the quantity exported in 1901 was 5,356 tons below the average for that period.

(*b*) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There is in Dominica one sulphur mine at Soufriere, and there are mines containing molybdenum and copper at Virgin Gorda, one of the islands of the Virgin Islands group, which it is hoped will shortly be worked again. Phosphates are found on the island of Redonda.

Sugar is the staple product of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis.

A considerable quantity of rum is manufactured in St. Kitts.

Dominica has for many years been the world's chief producer of lime juice and its bye products. The lime juice industry of Montserrat, which was almost entirely destroyed by the hurricane of 1899, is being rapidly re-established. Bay oil is manufactured in both Dominica and Montserrat.

There are no organized fisheries.

An effort to secure the co-operation of the Dutch, Danish, and French Governments with a view to the establishment of a uniform close season for the turtle fishery in the West Indies has hitherto proved unsuccessful.

(c.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANIC STATIONS.

The estimated acreage of cultivated land in Antigua is 16,481 acres out of 52,794 acres, in St. Kitts-Nevis (exclusive of Anguilla) 18,268 out of 75,520 acres. In Dominica there are about 177,549 acres of uncultivated land, of which about 80,000 are Crown lands suitable for cultivation.

Sugar constitutes the chief agricultural industry of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat; the production of lime juice, essential oil of limes, and cocoa are the main industries of Dominica, while considerable quantities of lime juice are exported from Montserrat.

In Antigua there are established ten, and in St. Kitts nine local sugar experiment stations, where experiments are being carried on in order to select and introduce into local cultivation the most productive varieties of sugar cane, and also by experiment to ascertain the manurial requirements of the sugar cane under the special conditions prevailing in various localities. The work at these stations is carried on jointly by officers working in connection with the Imperial Department of Agriculture and by the planters. Reports of the work done are published annually and have had an important bearing on the work of the sugar plantations.

In Antigua there has been established in connection with the botanic station a small station for the experimental cultivation of various economic plants other than sugar cane; here experiments have been conducted with yams, sweet potatoes, eddoes, guinea corn, corn (maize), beans, cotton and a variety of other products of interest. Reports are issued annually.

Similar work has also been done in connection with the experiment station in Montserrat.

Botanic stations, or their equivalents, are established in every Presidency, and herein are conducted experiments with, and experimental cultivations of, various plants adapted to local conditions, either with the object of improving the cultivation of established kinds, or of introducing improved varieties, or of introducing entirely new plants with the hope of establishing new industries. These stations serve as centres from which economic plants are distributed to local cultivators who readily avail themselves of the facilities thus offered.

The botanic station in Dominica has been particularly successful in its work in connection with cacao and limes. The Antigua and St. Kitts stations have given much attention to sugar cane, while directing attention to other local industries of growing importance. That of Montserrat has been largely directed to food crops and the subject of minor industries.

The pineapple industry of Antigua has been making steady progress of recent years; efforts are being made by the Agricultural Department to introduce new and improved kinds, with some degree of success. As the result of these experiments it is expected that new avenues of trade will be opened up. The diseases affecting pineapples have been studied and reported upon by the entomologist and by the mycologist of the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

Tobacco is cultivated on a small scale in Antigua and in St. Kitts. A small local industry appears now to be established in the former Island where the soil is suitable for raising the somewhat heavy tobacco required for local consumption. There is good ground to hope that a cigar-tobacco industry may be established in St. Kitts in course of time; the soil of that Island appears to be eminently suitable for the cultivation of cigar-tobacco.

Cacao is being planted on a small, but systematic scale in Nevis, where there exist a few well-sheltered fertile valleys, which promise to make good cacao estates; it is too early to speak yet with certainty of the success of this venture, but the prospects so far are favourable.

A fairly successful onion industry is now established in Antigua, and a small export trade is growing. Attempts are being made to introduce a similar industry into Montserrat and Dominica.

In several of the Presidencies there have been enquiries as to the possibility of establishing a cotton industry to replace sugar in the poorer districts. Experiments are in progress by the Department of Agriculture and by private persons with the view of ascertaining whether cotton will prove remunerative, and what varieties will be most profitable; and on some estates in St. Kitts important steps have been taken with a view to the substitution of cotton for sugar. A small cotton gin for experimental purposes has been procured for Antigua, and it is in contemplation to procure gins for some of the other Presidencies.

With the aid of the Department efforts are being made to introduce the teaching of the principles of agriculture into the elementary schools. Courses of lectures on the principles of agriculture are being given to teachers by the Federal Analytical Chemist, assisted by the curators of the botanic stations. A text-book for the use of teachers in elementary schools ('Nature Teaching based on the principles of Agriculture' by Francis

Watts) has been prepared and widely circulated. Teaching on these lines has been begun in various schools in the Colony, and is expected soon to become general.

Instruction in the principles of agriculture is now given in the grammar school in St. Kitts at the instance of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, which provides the services of a science master and awards scholarships. Arrangements are completed for affording similar facilities in Antigua.

An Agricultural school has been established by the Imperial Department of Agriculture in Dominica, where 20 resident boys receive the rudiments of elementary education, and are trained in the manual work appertaining to the agricultural industries applicable to Dominica. This school is working well, and appears to supply a decided want in the economy of the Presidency.

Valuable animals for the improvement of the breeds of horses, cattle, asses, mules, sheep, goats and pigs, have been imported into the various Presidencies by the Department of Agriculture, whereby much needed and highly appreciated improvements are being effected.

Considerable progress has been made in the work of the Imperial Department of Agriculture which is exerting an appreciable influence on the agricultural methods of the Colony, and inducing various agricultural developments.

The West India Bulletin or journal of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, published monthly, and the "Agricultural News," published fortnightly, afford much information concerning the work of the Department in the Leeward Islands and elsewhere; while the numerous reports and pamphlets issued are read with interest by those who are engaged in the industries touched upon. The establishment in each Presidency of a centre where information can be obtained on agricultural and kindred subjects, is productive of much good and tends to foster improvements.

(*d.*) Land Grants and General Value of Lands.

No land grants have been made in recent years, and the general value of land varies so greatly in the different Presidencies, and according to its suitability for sugar or other cultivation, that it is almost impossible to obtain reliable statistics as to value. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane land may be taken at the present moment to range between £4 and £8 per acre. Crown lands can be purchased in Dominica at a cost of 10*s*. per acre, and survey fees of about 3*s*. per acre.

(*e.*) Shipping.

The following table shows the total tonnage of both steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1901, distinguishing between British and foreign vessels.

SUMMARY SHOWING TONNAGE OF VESSELS ENTERED AND CLEARED.

—	British.						Foreign.						Steam.	Sailing.	Total.
	Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.			Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.					
	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Total.	Total.	
Antigua	228,395	228,395	456,790	7,585	7,552	15,137	8,092	8,092	16,184	2,592	1,786	4,378	472,974	19,515	492,489
St. Kitts ...	205,576	205,576	411,152	6,830	6,234	13.064	19,155	19,155	38,310	5.394	5,687	11,081	449,462	24,145	473,607
Nevis ...	34,296	34,296	68,592	877	1,393	2,270	—	—	—	126	132	258	68,592	2,528	71,120
Anguilla ...	—	—	—	1,611	1,635	3,246	—	—	—	121	121	242	—	3,488	3,488
Dominica	225,639	225,490	451,129	3,414	3,456	6,870	8,372	8,372	16,744	1,623	1,610	3,233	467,873	10,103	477,976
Montserrat ...	119,623	119,623	239,246	5,667	5,642	11,309	6,699	6,699	13,398	665	684	1,349	252,644	12,658	265,302
Virgin Islands ...	—	—	—	5,238	5,502	10,740	—	—	—	604	542	1,146	—	11,886	11,886
Total	813,529	813,380	1,626,909	31,222	31,414	62,636	42,318	42,318	84,636	11,125	10,562	21,687	1,711,545	84,323	1,795,868

Comparing the above figures with those for 1900 there is an increase of 146,635 tons in steam vessels and a decrease of 4,064 tons in sailing vessels during the year.

Taking the individual figures for each Presidency and comparing them with those for 1900 there is in Antigua an increase of 41,342 tons in steam vessels and a decrease of 445 in sailing vessels.

In St. Kitts-Nevis (including Anguilla) there is an increase of 26,112 tons in steam vessels and a decrease of 1,110 tons in sailing vessels.

In Dominica an increase appears of 11,887 tons in steam vessels and a decrease of 1,597 tons in sailing vessels.

In Montserrat there is an increase of 67,294 tons in steam vessels and a decrease of 722 tons in sailing vessels.

In the Virgin Islands there is a decrease of 190 tons in sailing vessels.

The following table shows the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in each Presidency during each of the last five years, including both steam and sailing vessels, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1901 as compared with 1900 :—

TOTAL TONNAGE OF VESSELS ENTERED AND CLEARED IN EACH PRESIDENCY.

Presidency.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	Increase 1901 over 1900.	Decrease 1901 under 1900.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	445,948	429,168	444,159	451,592	492,489	40,897	—
St. Kitts-Nevis	491,629	501,878	520,269	523.213	548,215	25,002	—
Dominica	407,460	456,998	464,986	467,686	477,976	10.290	—
Montserrat	228,715	208,430	186,429	198,730	265,302	66,572	—
Virgin Islands	11,545	11,307	11,374	12,076	11,886	—	190
Total of Colony	1,585,297	1,607,781	1,627,217	1,653,297	1,795,868	142,761	190

Net increase in 1901 over 1900, 142,571 tons.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands was in session from the 14th to the 18th March, inclusive, during which time 14 Acts were passed, the most important of which were:—

Act No. 1 of 1901 entitled "An Act to amend the Title by Registration Acts" whereby the Land Tax is made a first charge on all lands held under or to be brought under the Title by Registration Acts.

Act No. 2 of 1901 shortly entitled "The Criminal Evidence Act, 1901." This Act assimilates the law as regards evidence in criminal cases to that now in force in England, namely, the Criminal Evidence Act of 1898, and enables every person charged with an offence, and the wife or husband of the person charged, to be a competent witness for the defence.

Act No. 14 of 1901, shortly entitled "The Statute Law Revision Act, 1901." This Act contains lengthy schedules showing (A) Acts repealed by the present Act, (B) Acts heretofore specifically and wholly repealed, or disallowed, or not assented to, and (C) Acts in force as on the 31st December 1900.

One Act was disallowed, and "An Act to incorporate the Synod of the Diocese of Antigua and to provide for the administration of the property of the Church of England in the Colony" was declared to be ultra vires.

In Antigua, 10 Ordinances were passed. No. 2 of 1901, provides for the management, regulation and control of Barbuda and the imposition and collection of taxes in that Island.

No. 5 of 1901, makes it an offence punishable by fine not exceeding £50 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months to set fire to any crop, tree, wood, grass, &c., without having first obtained a license for the purpose. This Ordinance became necessary on account of the frequent and reckless setting of fire to bush and grass by the inhabitants, causing considerable damage by way of denuding and deforesting the higher lands of the Island.

Ordinance No. 8 of 1901 consolidates and amends the several Acts and Ordinances in force relating to the collection of Customs duties.

Ordinance No. 6 of 1901 entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the Preservation of the Public Health in the Country Districts," was disallowed. A new Bill will shortly be introduced.

The Legislative Council of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis passed 16 Ordinances during the year, one of which (No. 2 of 1901) regulating the granting of mining leases of Crown lands and the grant of licenses to explore and prospect on Crown lands for minerals, was disallowed.

Ordinance No. 1 of 1901 provides for the government of the town of Basseterre. Ordinances consolidating the numerous enactments relating to liquor licenses and land and house tax were passed, and the Anguilla Road Ordinance No. 3 of 1898 was repealed.

In Dominica only three Ordinances were passed, none of which call for any remark.

The Legislature of Montserrat passed nine Ordinances. By Ordinance No. 7 the amount of money which may be deposited in the Savings' Bank by any one depositor is limited to £100, and the rate of interest from and after the 1st April, 1902, is fixed at 2½ per cent.

The Virgin Islands passed six Ordinances, making a total of 58 Acts and Ordinances passsd in the colony during the year under report.

The publication of a new and revised edition of the laws of the colony and of each Presidency, which is much needed, will, it is hoped, soon be undertaken.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(*a*.) PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The number of children on the rolls of the primary schools for the year 1901 was 23,273, as against 24,974 during the previous year, showing a decrease of 1,701, the average attendance being 11,257, as against 11,009, being an increase of 248.

The following table shows the number on the roll, the average attendance, school fees, Government grant and voluntary contributions, for the last five years :—

——	1897.			1898.			1899.			1900.			1901.		
Number on roll ...	25,022			25,121			24,879			24,974			23,273		
Average attendance	12,438			11,745			12,046			11,009			11,257		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
School fees... ...	331	14	9	228	3	10	180	4	9	129	4	11	97	13	11
Government grant	7,090	3	3	6,223	7	11	6,138	10	2	6,180	13	9	6,254	11	4
Voluntary contributions.	532	19	6	563	6	1	568	16	7	369	3	6	685	15	5

(*b*.) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

There are three secondary schools in Antigua, (1) the Antigua Grammar School which receives a grant of £200 per annum, (2) the Antigua Girls' High School which receives a grant of

£100 per annum, and (3) the Spring Gardens' Female Training College which receives a grant of £200. In Dominica the Roseau Grammar School is maintained by the Government, at a cost last year of £362. Antigua and Dominica are centres for the Cambridge Local Examinations. Examinations are also held in Antigua for the various degrees in arts and law of the University of London.

(c.) INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL, OR AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

The Skerretts (Boys) Training School is limited as far as possible to 100 boys. On the 31st March, 1902, there were 71 inmates belonging to Antigua, 12 to St. Kitts, six to Nevis, four to Anguilla, and one to Montserrat, making a total of 94 boys. The number of admissions for the last fifteen months was 12, as against 22 discharged and on license. One boy died from dysentery.

All the boys admitted were from Antigua. The health of the boys was satisfactory.

Malarial fever has, as usual, been the prevailing complaint. There were 201 cases among the boys during the year 1901. Attention is, however, being given to the filling up and disinfecting of the stagnant puddles of water in the neighbourhood of the school, which form the breeding grounds of the anopheles mosquito, and this will doubtless tend to improve considerably the health of the inmates.

The health of the animals on the farm attached to the school has been on the whole satisfactory. The want of a pure and sufficient water supply is a very great drawback, and the hope expressed in last year's report as to remedying the defect by connecting the school with the Wallings reservoir has not yet been realized.

The death of one of the thoroughbred stallions, "George Michaelovitch," occurred in the early part of the year.

The stock farm was supplied with a thoroughbred stud Jack and Jenny through the instrumentality of the Imperial Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture. Annual auction sales of young stock are held. The estimated value of the stock on the farm is £1,320. The total expenditure on the stock farm for the fifteen months ending 31st March, 1902 was £499 4*s.*, and the receipts £547 12*s.*

The best varieties of sugar cane are grown on the estate, and at an auction sale of cane plants held at the end of 1901, 100,000 cane plants were sold. The rainfall during the year was 71·88 inches.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(*a*.) HOSPITALS.

The following table shows in a summarized form the number of patients admitted during the year, the number discharged from these institutions, and the number of deaths which took place.

Hospitals.	Number in Hospital on 1st January 1901.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua	184	1,452	793	377	—	290
Cunningham, St. Kitts	117	995	590	243	116	116
Nevis	29	90	45	31	17	17
Dominica	58	549	458	33	47	47
Montserrat (Chateau)	61	39	21	7	10	10
" (Hospital)	5	52	24	15	6	6

Antigua is of all the Presidencies the worst supplied with hospital accommodation. Through the generous assistance afforded by the Imperial authorities a new hospital is shortly to be erected.

(*b*.) LUNATIC AND LEPER ASYLUMS.

The following tables give the statistics for the lunatic and leper asylums.

LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

Asylum.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1901.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Rat Island	76	35	18	2	4	13
Ridge	36	2	1	—	—	1

The conversion of Scott's Hill Buildings in Antigua into a lunatic asylum, which was commenced last year, had to be postponed owing to the buildings being required by the military authorities in connection with the establishment of a military camp for the detention of Boer prisoners of war who were to have been sent to Antigua.

LEPER ASYLUMS.

Asylums.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1901.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua	40	4	—	—	—	7
St. Kitts	65	6	—	1	—	7

The total number of the cases treated in these asylums for the last ten years is as follows :—

Year.	Antigua.	St. Kitts.
1892	33	80
1893	40	73
1894	36	77
1895	35	73
1896	35	74
1897	34	61
1898	39	71
1899	44	76
1900	46	73
1901	44	71

These figures do not substantiate the fears of some people that leprosy is spreading to any appreciable extent in these islands.

(c.) POOR HOUSE.

The number of persons in the Poor House in Antigua on the 1st January, 1901, was 104—54 were admitted during the year and 17 discharged.

The number of persons receiving outdoor relief was 894, the total amount distributed being £606.

(d.) REFORMATORIES.

(*See* under Education—Training School.)

(e.) SAVINGS' BANKS.

There are Savings' Banks in all the Presidencies with the exception of the Virgin Islands.

The total amounts to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1901, were as follows:—

	£
Antigua	44,236
St. Kitts	8,530
Nevis...	2,029
Dominica	7,637
Montserrat	3,136
Total	65,568

The total amount of deposits during the year was £23,669, and the withdrawals £21,330, the number of depositors being 2,516.

Interest has hitherto been allowed at the rate of 3 per cent.; but in Montserrat this is reduced from the 1st of April, 1902, to 2½ per cent.

The total amount of invested funds is £66,118.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(a.) POLICE.

The armed police force of the Leeward Islands numbered on the 31st December last a total strength of 189 officers and men, viz., 1 inspector-general, 3 inspectors, 3 sergeant-majors, 182 other non-commissioned officers and men. Of these 1 inspector 1 sergeant-major, and 67 other non-commissioned officers and men were stationed at Antigua, including 1 sergeant in Barbuda; 1 inspector, 1 sergeant-major, and 60 other non-commissioned officers and men in St. Kitts-Nevis; 1 inspector and 34 non-commissioned officers and men in Dominica, 1 sergeant-major and 20 non-commissioned officers and men in Montserrat, and 1 second class private in the Virgin Islands.

The divisions stationed in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Dominica were inspected by Major-General J. F. Hilton.

(b.) PRISONS.

The total number of persons committed to prison in the several gaols of the colony during the year 1901 was 1,561 (812 males, 710 females, and 39 juveniles.)

All prisoners whose sentences exceed six months are sent to the Central Prison in Antigua. The total number of prisoners received during the year at the Central Prison was 496 (237 males and 259 females) being a decrease of 396 (316 males and 80 females) under that of 1900.

The number of committals from Antigua during the year was 459 as against 857 during the previous year, being a decrease of 398, and is the lowest number of admissions during the last 10 years as the following table will show :—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1892	363	200	563
1893	419	213	632
1894	325	253	578
1895	482	243	725
1896	324	264	588
1897	348	184	532
1898	363	217	580
1899	341	206	547
1900	522	335	857
1901	252	207	459

The transfers from the other Presidencies were as follows :—

Presidency.	Males.	Females.	Total.
St. Kitts-Nevis	11	5	16
Dominica	5	2	7
Montserrat...	11	—	11
Virgin Islands	3	—	3
Total	30	7	37

The prisoners were employed as in former years in cooking, baking bread for the public institutions, making and mending prison clothing and bedding, washing clothing, cleaning, and other miscellaneous labour. Also in quarrying, stone-cutting, keeping in order the public cemetery, the pauper cemetery, and Government House grounds, and in work connected with the conversion of Scott's Hill premises into a lunatic asylum.

The total cost of each prisoner was £17 7*s.* 5*d.*

The health of the prisoners was good, only one death occurring from heart disease.

The following table gives the number of cases treated by the prison surgeon during the year :—

—	Males.	Females.
Skin diseases	25	13
Bright's disease	3	—
Debility	13	4
Hernia	4	—
Eye diseases	12	3
Genito-urinary diseases ...	12	—
Rheumatism	25	13
Epistaxis	1	2
Fevers	57	13
Abscesses and ulcers ...	10	12
Headache and vertigo ...	7	4
Slight injuries	27	4
Malingering...	54	8

Making a total of 326 cases treated. The central prison continues to be one of the best of the public institutions of the Colony, and great credit is due to the chief keeper for the high standard of order and discipline to which it has been brought.

(c.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The following table gives the total number of offences reported to the police during each of the last five years, together with the convictions and acquittals in each year :—

Year.	Offences reported.	Convicted.	Acquitted, died awaiting trial, or *nolle prosequi* entered.
1897 ...	13,261	5,837	7,258
1898 ...	12,813	5,613	7,105
1899 ...	13,358	6,808	6,449
1900 ...	13,160	7,855	5,763
1901 ...	14,391	7,493	6,795

Of the offences reported 3,203 were for offences against the person, 775 for prædial larceny, 1,216 offences against property (other than prædial larceny) and the remaining 9,197 comprise all other offences.

There was a remarkable falling off in the number of offences under the head of Prædial Larceny, the figures for the year under report being 775 as against 1,431 for the previous year.

This satisfactory decrease in this class of crime may be attributed to the plentiful crop of ground provisions (the chief support of the poorer classes), the short supply of, and the unusual demand for labour during the year, and the deterrent effect of sharp sentences inflicted on offenders for cane stealing and kindred offences.

Summary convictions were recorded against 7,421 persons in the Magistrates' Courts, the convictions by the Superior Courts amounting to 72.

6,758 persons were acquitted in the Magistrates' Courts and 29 in the Superior Courts, a *nolle prosequi* was entered in 7 cases, and one prisoner died while awaiting trial.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(a.) POPULATION.

The census for the Leeward Islands was taken throughout the Colony on the night of the 31st March, 1901.

According to the returns, the population of the Colony was 127,434, consisting of 56,851 males, and 70,853 females, as against 127,723 in 1891, showing a net decrease of 289 during the last decade.

The following summary shows the population of each Presidency according to the census of 1891 and that of last year, together with the increase or decrease in each case.

POPULATION OF EACH PRESIDENCY.

Presidency.	1891.			1901.			1901.		Net in 1901.	
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
Antigua (including Barbuda and Redonda)	17,242	19,577	36,819	15,878	19,093	34,971	—	1,848	—	—
St. Kitts-Nevis and Anguilla...	22,008	25,654	47,662	20,269	26,177	46,446	—	1,216	—	—
Dominica	12,059	14,782	26,841	12,870	16,024	28,894	2,053	—	—	—
Montserrat	5,331	6,431	11,762	5,580	6,635	12,215	453	—	—	—
Virgin Islands	2,140	2,499	4,639	2,254	2,654	4,908	269	—	—	—
Total	58,780	68,943	127,723	56,851	70,583	127,434	2,775	3,064	—	289

From the above figures it will be observed that the only Islands in which a decrease of population occurs are the sugar producing Islands of Antigua, St. Kitts and Nevis.

In Antigua there is a decrease of 1,941, in St. Kitts 1,094, and in Nevis 313, while in Dominica, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands increases of 2,053, 453 and 269 respectively are shown.

There was also an increase of 191 in Anguilla, and 195 in Barbuda over that of the census of 1891.

The excess of females over males is 13,733 as against 10,163 in 1891, and may be taken as an indication of the emigration of males who have left these Islands in search of employment elsewhere. In a great many instances they leave their wives and families without any visible means of support, and these eventually find their way into the charitable institutions of the Colony and become a charge on the Government.

(b.) Public Health.

The public health during the year was, on the whole, satisfactory. No serious epidemic of any disease occurred. The mortality from fever in the Island of Anguilla is stated to be unprecedented, the deaths amounting to 23.

The death rate of the Colony per thousand during the year 1901, was 27·35, which compares favourably with that of former years.

Many of the villages in the county districts of Antigua have now been connected by pipes with the Wallings' reservoir, and secure a pure and wholesome supply of drinking water in place the water collected in ponds, which was the only available source from which drinking water was in former years obtainable. This will naturally have a very beneficial influence on the health of the villagers, and tend among other advantages to decrease to a very large extent the constantly recurring epidemics of diarrhœa and dysentery, resulting from drinking impure water.

(c.) Sanitation.

Sanitary Boards exist in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat, by which provision is made for the enforcement of the usual sanitary regulations.

In Antigua attention is being given to the improvement of the sanitation in the country villages.

(d.) Climate.

(1) *Rainfall.*

The average rainfall recorded at 65 stations in Antigua during 1901 was 57·61 inches, as against 36·95 inches recorded at 64 stations in 1900. The average rainfall for 28 years, from

1874 to 1901 inclusive, was 46·09 inches, so that the rainfall for 1901 was 11·52 inches above the average for that period. The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 4·35 inches on 1st November.

In St. Kitts the rainfall recorded at the United States Weather Bureau was 61·15 inches as against 38 inches during the previous year. There was a very heavy downpour of rain on the 2nd and 3rd November amounting to 22 inches in two days on some of the mountain estates.

In Dominica the rainfall recorded at the United States Weather Bureau was 65·71 inches. The greatest amount of rain recorded was at "Middleham" Estate where 239·50 inches fell. Several other estates recorded rainfalls of considerably over 100 inches.

In Montserrat the average rainfall recorded at 10 stations was 64·73 inches, the highest rainfall being 76·18 inches and the lowest 46·51 inches.

(2) *Temperature.*

In Antigua the highest shade temperature recorded at the Government Laboratory was 93° on April 17th, May 30th and June 1st, and the lowest 67° on March 23rd. The mean temperature for the year was 82·2 at 9 a.m. and 83·3 at 3 p.m. Five slight shocks of earthquake were recorded.

In St. Kitts the highest temperature recorded was 89° in September, and the lowest 68° in the early months of the year.

In Dominica the highest atmospheric temperature observed at the United States Weather Bureau was 91° on June 9th and August 15th, and the lowest 66° in February.

In Montserrat the highest temperature was 93° on September 6th, and the lowest 70° on March 3rd and December 30th.

(3) *Direction and Force of Wind.*

The prevailing direction of the wind in the Leeward Islands is east with occasional variations to north-east and east north-east. The average velocity per hour was 4·9 miles in Antigua, 9·0 in St. Kitts, and 5·3 in Dominica. These figures are not however a reliable index to the conditions generally prevailing in the respective Islands.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

The following table gives the statistics of postal matter sent to and from the Colony during the last five years.

Year.	Letters and Cards received and sent.	Books and Papers received and sent.	Parcels received and sent.
1897	362,433	151,853	5,430
1898	375,963	155,664	6,061
1899	491,616	184,327	6,746
1900	452,137	168,820	7,079
1901	572,314	175,215	7,811

Comparing the figures for 1901 with those for 1900 we find an increase of 120,177 letters and cards received and sent, 6,395 books and papers received and sent, and 732 parcels received and sent. The total value of Money Orders issued in the Colony was £23,067 as against £27,646 in 1900, being a decrease of £4,579, while the value of Orders cashed in the Colony was £18,736 as against £14,542, exhibiting an increase of £4,194.

The subsidies paid to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company amount to £1,400 per annum, of which Antigua pays £500, St. Kitts-Nevis £500 and Dominica £400. There is no telegraphic communication with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands.

The Direct West India Cable Company's Cable is laid as far as Jamaica via Halifax and Bermuda, the line passing entirely through British territory. By either route telegrams can be sent to all parts of the world. The charge to the United Kingdom is 4*s.* 5*d.* per word, with a preferential rate for Government messages of 3*s.* 0½*d.* per word.

Telephones are in operation in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts, there being at the end of 1901, 260 miles of wire and 144 instruments in use in the former island and 204 miles of wire and 78 instruments in use in the latter. The system is being established in Dominica, and all the public offices are now connected by telephone. Telephonic communication also exists between the towns of Roseau and Portsmouth and is being extended in various directions.

The expenditure in Antigua on the telephone system was £689 and the receipts £690. In St. Kitts the expenditure was £440 and the receipts £375.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

(a.) Regular Forces.

(None.)

(b.) Militia.

(None.)

(c.) Volunteer.

Volunteer defence forces have been established in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis.

In Antigua the force was established on the occasion of Her late Majesty's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. The St. John's Mounted Infantry and Infantry Companies, armed with Martini-Enfield rifles, numbered, on the 31st December 1901, 77 officers and men.

In St. Kitts-Nevis a volunteer defence force has been established since 1896, and numbered, on the 31st December, 1901, 70 officers and men. The force is divided into three companies. A. Company for Basseterre, B. Company for Country Districts of St. Kitts, and C. Company for Nevis.

The expenditure in Antigua on the defence force in 1901 was £222, and in St. Kitts-Nevis £467.

The arms are on loan from the Imperial Government.

(d.) Constabulary or Semi-Military Colonial Force.

(*See* Police.)

X.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., relinquished the Government of the Colony of the Leeward Islands on the 5th July.

Sir George Melville, K.C.M.G., administered the Government from the 5th July to 30th October, Mr. E. A. Foster acted as Colonial Secretary from the 16th August to the 30th October, during which time Mr. W. D. Auchinleck acted as Auditor-General, and Mr. E. R. Jones as Treasurer.

Sir Henry M. Jackson, K.C.M.G. assumed the administration of the Government of the Colony on the 31st October.

Mr. John Symonds Udal, late Attorney-General of Fiji was appointed to act as Chief Justice in January. Mr. G. K. T. Purcell was appointed a District Judge of the Gold Coast Colony and was succeeded by Mr. Wattley as

Assistant to the Attorney-General in St. Kitts on the 28th August.

Mr. F. S. Wigley acted as Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis in March and April during the absence on leave of Mr. Cox.

Mr. Edward B. Jarvis was appointed Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office and Clerk to the Executive Council of the Leeward Islands, the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands, and the Legislative Council of Antigua on the 4th July, vice Mr. W. M. Gordon, promoted. Mr. G. O. Nugent was appointed 2nd clerk and clerk of the Local Executive Council, Mr. H. F. Holme was appointed 3rd clerk and Mr. E. D. Tibbits 4th clerk.

Mr. R. H. K. Dyett acted as magistrate, District A, from the 25th April to the 1st October, during Mr. Whyham's absence on leave, and Mr. G. C. Faille acted as chief clerk in the Registrar's Office.

Dr. Rose acted as medical officer, District No. 4 Antigua, during the absence of Dr. Earl, on leave from the 9th November.

XI.--GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The financial condition of the Colony of the Leeward Islands as a whole was more satisfactory for the year under review than has been the case for some years, and if the necessary impetus, in the shape of central factories, were given to the sugar industry in the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Montserrat, there would be reasonable ground to look forward to a return in some degreee of the prosperity which they once enjoyed.

The death of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria was an occasion that called forth the warmest and deepest expression of sympathetic loyalty on the part of all classes in the community throughout the colony, and most touching were the tokens of sincere love and regard on the part of the poorer inhabitants for their late beloved and revered sovereign.

Antigua.

The only public work of any importance which is being carried on in this Presidency is the Walling's Water Works under the superintendence of Mr. W. M. Mackison, C.E. Good progress has been made in the work and the erection of village tanks, and the laying of pipes to the country villages has been proceeded with. The installation of a system of filtration has been commenced, and this, when completed, will add greatly to the value and improved character of the water supply.

The sugar crop for 1901 fell considerably below the estimate. The unusually heavy rainfall in January of the year prevented the canes maturing properly and delayed the commencement of reaping operations—whilst in June and July an excess of moisture retarded sugar manufacture, especially upon those Estates where there was a shortage of fuel, and had an unfavourable effect upon the density of the cane juice. The indifferent crushing powers of the old time mills and imperfect processes of manufacture in vogue contributed not a little to the bad results obtained. Reference should here be made to the fact that the percentage of extraction of juice is admitted to be at present 50 per cent. below that attainable with the most modern mills and there seems little hope for the re-habilitation of the sugar industry of this Colony until central factories equipped with up to date appliances are substituted for the crude and obsolete methods of manufacture at present resorted to, and thus enable the planters to compete with the other sugar producing countries on more favourable conditions than they are at present able to do.

Besides the crop being a short one, the range of prices for the year 1901 was distinctly below the average both for sugar and its bye products, Molasses and Rum. As will be seen from the Treasury returns, practically the entire crop of the island is exported to the United States of America where the system of imposing countervailing duties upon bounty fed sugar gives a distinct advantage to West Indian sugars. After the reaping season the weather continued to be very favourable for the growth of next year's crop right up to the end of December, so that the prospects of the next campaign are promising so far as the sugar crop is concerned, but the enormous visible supplies of sugar throughout the world point to a range of prices unprecedently low and consequently the outlook is anything but re-assuring.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

The visit of Dr. G. C. Low, of the London School of Tropical Medicine, in March 1902, which was secured on the initiative of private gentlemen, and the cost of which has been borne privately, cannot fail to be of great benefit to St. Kitts, and the thanks of the public are due to Dr. Low for so generously sparing that Presidency a portion of his limited time in the West Indies.

The fact must be emphasised that the satisfactory financial position of this Presidency at the close of the year does not in itself indicate a permanent return of prosperity, as the immediate future of St. Kitts-Nevis depends wholly upon the future of the sugar industry.

DOMINICA.

In happy contrast to the industrial struggles of the other islands in the Leeward Group, it is satisfactory to note the steady progress and increased prosperity that marked the condition of Dominica during 1901. The revenue amounted to nearly £30,000, and was the highest ever realised in the island; there was no increase of taxation and the improvement was entirely due to the development of trade and the increased purchasing power of the people. Although considerable sums were spent in the reconstruction and improvement of roads and in other public works, the expenditure of the Presidency was restricted to a total within the revenue, and the year closed with an accumulated surplus of nearly £6,000. Of this amount, £4,000 have been invested as a reserve fund.

The exports of produce were considerably larger than the average of preceding years, and the rapid increase in the output of the staple products is a guide to the extension of cultivation in many directions During the last fifteen years the value of cocoa has risen from £7,000 to nearly £24,000, while the shipments of lime juice during 1901 were valued locally at £35,000. For many years Dominica has been the chief producer of lime juice and its bye-products. Proof of the remarkable extension of agriculture enterprise is found in the fact that the botanic station during 1901 distributed to planters no less than 58,000 seedling trees; principally cocoa, limes, rubber, and vanilla cuttings.

Large areas of virgin land were rendered accessible by the extension of the trunk road into the mountains and valleys of the interior.

Considerable blocks of the Crown lands were purchased during the year, and several flourishing plantations of cocoa, oranges, coffee etc., are being created there by persons possessing moderate capital, who have been attracted to this beautiful island. Good progress was made with the expenditure of the Imperial grant for road construction during 1901, and several miles of excellent bridle-road were constructed through the forests.

The immigration of labourers from the northern islands was a noticeable feature during 1901, and field hands are therefore fairly abundant. This influx bids fair to continue and the island will benefit much by the consequent increase of population.

Several of the public buildings were improved during the year, and telephone lines were extended in various directions. A contract was concluded with the Royal Mail Company for the establishment of a coasting steam service round the island, and a handsome vessel the "Yare" commenced to ply on Christmas day.

Several miles of bridle-tracks were converted into driving roads, and a number of wheeled vehicles were imported during the year. The mountain roads were also considerably improved and the highways in the Lasoye District were placed under the care of a local committee of planters.

MONTSERRAT.

The year commenced with a severe drought, one of the worst on record, which did not break until May. After that month, the conditions were most favourable for the crops of 1902, although heavy rains in September and October did considerable damage to the roads, and the experimental plots of onions which had recently been planted.

During the year there was no prolonged series of earthquakes similar to that in October, 1900, but on the 31st October several severe shocks were felt.

The public buildings, which were rebuilt in 1900, after the hurricane, were painted throughout, and the walls of the Treasury Buildings, which had been shaken by the earthquakes of the preceding year, were strengthened. On the northern side of the jetty, where formerly was a waste piece of land, a Government warehouse was erected and surrounded by an enclosure similar to that of the market on the southern side, the landing stage being thus improved.

In the centre of the town a large plot of land belonging to Government, on which people had squatted for many years, making it the chief fever centre of Plymouth, was cleared, and is being gradually prepared as a school garden to be opened in honour of the Coronation, and called Coronation Gardens.

To windward a large reservoir containing 80,000 gallons was constructed, which will serve as storage for the Harris' Waterworks.

The police station at Harris' Village, for which a rental of £14 was being paid, was purchased for £50. Extensive repairs are necessary, but the purchase will mean ultimate economy.

Two important diversions of roads were made at Riley's Hill to windward, and at St. Peter's at the north, whereby the gradients of the roads were reduced. As has been said, the unusually heavy rains in September and October caused great damage to the roads, especially to those in the town district. The Plymouth ghaut must, unless exhaustive embankment works are made, always remain a menace to the chief town.

In view of the mountain tops having been denuded of trees, owing to the hurricane, the Secretary of State directed Mr. C. Rogers, who was proceeding to Trinidad to take an appointment in the Crown Lands Department of that island, to visit Montserrat and report upon what measures were necessary to conserve the mountain lands. Mr. Rogers, after his visit, drew up an able report upon the recommendations of which a forestry ordinance is being prepared.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The building of a new vessel for mail and transport services which was sanctioned by the Secretary of State was completed in May, and a cutter of sloop rig, of 14 tons register, was launched during May by the Governor Sir Francis Fleming; this vessel has proved entirely satisfactory in every way and most valuable for preventive revenue, mail, and transport services; she is provided with four sleeping berths and a cabin of comfortable size and is unusually fast for vessels of her dimensions of local construction.

An estate to the north of Road Town was purchased and converted into an experimental station for the teaching of agriculture, a residence was built for the officer to be placed in charge of the station, and an instructor of agriculture appointed provisionally for this purpose; roads were cut over the estate, the sugar boiling works repaired, a small sugar mill imported, and parts of the station laid out in fruit trees, seedling canes, St. Vincent Arrowroot, Antigua pines, limes, shelter trees, and ornamental plants; seed beds also of limes, coffee, and cocoa, were established for distribution, and a sire horse and superior breeds of sheep and fowls imported from Barbados.

Steam communication is very badly required to bring the Presidency into notice, and facilitate communication with markets other than that of St. Thomas.

BARBUDA.

The island of Barbuda is plentifully stocked with game, and excellent deer shooting may be had during the months of July, August and September, while wild guinea-fowl, wild-duck and pigeons are found in great numbers.

EDWARD B. JARVIS,

For Colonial Secretary,

Leeward Islands.

LONDON:
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1902.

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No. 416.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1902-3.

(For Report for 1901–2, *see* No. 374.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
June, 1904.

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No. 416.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1901–2, *see* No. 374.)

GOVERNOR SIR G. STRICKLAND to MR. LYTTELTON.

Government House,
Antigua,
16th March, 1904.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1902-3, together with the Report thereon by the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

G. STRICKLAND,
Governor.

875 Wt 22378 6/1904 D & S 5 18030

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Leeward Islands,
21st December, 1903.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1902-1903.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

General Government.

The receipts of the Federal Government for the year 1902-3 amounted to £10,462 (exclusive of Imperial Grants-in-Aid of the Botanic Department), being made up as follows:—

Contributions from the several Presidencies	£10,394
Fees and miscellaneous receipts	68
	£10,462

The expenditure (exclusive of services on account of the Imperial Department of Agriculture) was £11,050.

The Imperial Grants-in-Aid of the Botanic Department amounted to £2,110, and the expenditure therefrom to £1,522.

These figures compared with those for 1901-2 show a decrease in the receipts of £147, and an increase in the expenditure of £308.

Of this amount of £308, £296 was expended on new dies for judicial and postage stamps.

Table I. of the Appendix shows the Revenue and Expenditure of each Presidency for the year under the different heads, and as compared with 1901-2. For Statements of Assets and Liabilities, *see* Table II.

Revenue.

The total revenue of the Colony for the year was £128,354, as against £123,450 in 1901-2. The expenditure totalled £134,895, exceeding that for the previous year by £1,998.

Customs.

Under the head Customs satisfactory increases of £2,039 in Antigua, and £737 in Dominica appear. The presence in the former Presidency, during the earlier part of the financial year, of a detachment of the Northumberland Fusiliers naturally increased to a considerable extent the circulation of money among the tradespeople. These troops were intended as a guard for Boer prisoners of war. The grant of £13,500 in aid of the sugar industry also contributed to the purchasing power of the community, and a marked improvement in the imports showed itself.

In Dominica the increase in Customs duties during the year was not due, as in Antigua, to a temporary impetus given to trade by unusual causes, but to the steadily increasing agricultural prosperity of the people.

Port and Harbour Dues.

As these dues are levied to a large extent on the importations, an increase of £1,081 occurred under this head.

Internal Revenue.

In St. Kitts-Nevis the revenue collected under this head showed a decrease of £2,176. This was due to the remission of the land tax on estates in cane cultivation. The revenue surrendered by this remission was, however, reimbursed from the Imperial Grant-in-Aid of the Sugar Industry.

Post Office Receipts.

The revenue derived from Post Office receipts exceeded that for last year by £1,660, and is attributable to the issue of new postage stamps of the King's head design.

Miscellaneous Revenue.

The increase appearing under this head consists principally of the refund of £642, which, owing to a re-assessment of the amount of contribution to the West India mail service, had been overpaid by the Presidency of Antigua and the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis.

Expenditure.

There were increases of expenditure amounting to £4,492 under fifteen heads, the principal being under:—

4. Administrator	£340
12. Medical	444
13. Hospitals	809
22. Miscellaneous	769
23. Post Office and Telephone ...	1,605

The first and fourth items represent permanent increases of expenditure, but the increases under the other heads were unusual.

The increase under Head 22 is due to the larger amount of subsidy paid in respect of the Dominica coasting steamer "Yare," and that under the last head to the cost of dies for the new issues of postage stamps and the establishment of the telephone system in Dominica.

Decreases amounting to £2,985 occurred under twelve heads of appropriation.

The financial results for the year were in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis more satisfactory than has been the case for several years past; the excess of expenditure over revenue in the former being £2,597, as compared with £6,446 in 1901-2.

In St. Kitts-Nevis the excess of assets over liabilities at the close of the year was £2,600.

The prosperity of the island of Dominica is steadily on the increase. The surplus of revenue over expenditure for the year was £626, notwithstanding an expenditure of £1,871 on extraordinary works.

The Presidency of Montserrat still requires a considerable amount of aid from the Imperial Government to meet its expenditure. The Imperial Grants-in-Aid of Revenue amounted during the year under review to £4,750, or about 76 per cent. of the total revenue from ordinary sources.

The revenue of the Virgin Islands is barely sufficient to meet the expenditure without a grant-in-aid.

(B.) IMPERIAL GRANTS.

The following Imperial Grants were received during the year:—

Antigua.

In aid of Revenue		£11,500
(including—		
Special Services—Barbuda ...	£500	
Erection of New Hospital ...	6,000)	
Botanic Department		979
Sugar Cane Industry		13,500
		£25,979

The Grant-in-Aid of the Sugar Cane Industry was paid in two instalments to those who undertook to keep their estates in full cane cultivation during the years 1902 and 1903. The acreage of land under sugar cane cultivation was returned for the year 1902 at 15,130 acres, and this allowed of a payment on each occasion of 8*s*. 11$\frac{1}{13}$*d*. per acre. From the amounts receivable by estates owners the land taxes for the years 1902 and 1903 were deducted.

Of the grant of £500 to Barbuda for special services £258 was spent in cleaning wells, making and improving roads, and the cutting of a boat channel through the spit of land that separates the sea from the Lagoon.

£1,597 out of the grant of £6,000 for the erection of a new hospital was expended in 1902-3, £1,500 of which was paid to the Imperial Government as purchase money for the huts erected at Scott's Hill for the troops and Boer prisoners of war.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

In aid of Botanic Department ...	£1,305
Sugar Cane Industry	6,500
	£7,805

The amount of £6,500 represents the first instalment of the Grant-in-Aid of the Sugar Industry of £14,110. The aid to the sugar industry having taken the form of remission of certain taxes, the greater portion of this grant reverted to replace revenue surrendered by such remission. In 1902-3 the sum of £4,425 was expended in refunds to owners of estates on account of taxes and dues collected since 1st January, 1902. The balance, £2,075, was transferred to the credit of General Revenue to replace revenue surrendered by the above remission.

The remission of taxes was made under the authority of Ordinance No. 7 of 1902, "The Sugar Taxes Suspension Ordinance, 1902," which provided for the remission of the following taxes:—

(1.) The export duty on sugar and rum imposed by Ordinance No. 1 of 1898.

(2.) The wharfage rates on packages of all descriptions containing sugar, rum, or molasses, exported from the Presidency, imposed by Ordinance No. 5 of 1900, "The Public Piers and Wharves Consolidation Ordinance 1900," and

(3.) The Land Tax payable under the provisions of Ordinance No. 9 of 1901, "The Land and House Tax Consolidation Ordinance, 1901," in respect of cultivated land.

Dominica.

£1,795 was received as a grant-in-aid of the Botanic Department, of which £1,676 was expended during the year.

Montserrat.

In aid of Revenue	£4,750
Botanic Department	897
Sugar Cane Industry	600
Hurricane Relief	1,245
	£7,492

£331 of the £600 granted for the relief of the sugar industry was expended during the year. This amount was not paid as in Antigua on the acreage in cane cultivation, but on the amount of sugar produced by each estate. The multiplicity of small owners rendered this departure from the method adopted in Antigua very desirable.

The amount of £1,245 for hurricane relief represents the unexpended balance of the Imperial grant of 1899. £728 of this was expended during the year on making and improving roads and on other works of general utility.

(C.) CHANGES IN TAXATION.

No change of any importance was made in taxation in any of the Presidencies during the year. In Antigua the Liquor Licence Ordinance was slightly amended in order to provide for the issue of tavern and canteen licenses. In St. Kitts-Nevis the duties on sugar, and the tax on land in cane cultivation were temporarily suspended by Ordinance No. 7 of 1902 to which reference has been made above

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies which, on the 31st March, 1902, stood at £286,321 was at the close of the year 1902-3 reduced to £285,021; £300 being repaid on account of the Antigua Savings Bank Loan, £900 on account of the Roseau Water Works Extension Loan, and £100 on account of the Montserrat Water Works Loan of 1880.

The following table shows the loans raised at different times and also the annual charges thereon, and the amount to credit of the Sinking Funds.

Loans.	Amount.	Yearly Charge.		Amount to Credit of Sinking Funds.
		Interest.	Sinking Fund.	
	£	£	£	£
Antigua—				
Immigration...	5,171	310	129	4,200
In Aid of Revenue borrowed from St. John's Savings Bank.	8,940	—	200	†3,640
Wallings Reservoir...	14,000	560	140	1,929
Additional Waterworks	12,200	‡543	‡305	5,815
Public Works and Harbour Improvements.	100,000	4,000	1,000	14,640
St. Kitts-Nevis—				
Basseterre Protection Loan ...	3,900	195	39	786
Waterworks (Sandy Point and Dieppe Bay).	8,000	360	80	1,705
Waterworks, Nevis	8,850	—	—	—
Public Works	23,000	1,274	318	2,795
Public Works of 1891	23,500	1,057	235	2,855
Improvement of Basseterre ...	*9,000	100	25	464
Dominica—				
Public Works and Aid of Revenue	5,000	250	50	1,574
Roads and Bridges 1888 and 1890	30,000	1,275	300	4,349
Roads and Bridges 1895	30,000	1,200	300	2,540
Montserrat—				
Waterworks 1883	1,100	54	11	255
Waterworks 1893	10,000	425	100	958
	292,661	11,603	3,232	48,505
Less repaid on account of Antigua Savings Bank Loan and Basseterre Improvement Loan.	7,640			
	285,021			

° £4,000 of this loan has been repaid.

† This item represents the amount which has been repaid to the Savings Bank.

‡ Paid by the St. John's City Board.

(E.) Municipalities.

The revenue of the St. John's City Board, established under Antigua Ordinance No. 5 of 1898, amounted to £4,156 during 1902, as compared with £2,916 in 1901. This large increase in revenue is due to the taking over by the City Board of the City Water Works.

The Board receives a grant of £2,100 per annum from the Government, out of which, however, £848 is paid as interest and sinking fund on the Water Works Loans of 1885 and 1890.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £4,406, or an increase of £1,403, causing an excess of £250 over revenue

The Board has not been able to carry out any extensive sanitary works through want of funds, but a marked improvement has manifested itself in several of the departments under its control. The extra revenue which will be derived from the proposed additional city rate will render further sanitary improvements possible.

Town Boards exist in the capital towns of St. Kitts (Basseterre) and Dominica (Roseau).

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports.

The total value of the Imports of the Colony for the year 1902, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £374,527, as compared with £358,230 in 1901.

Table III. of the Appendix gives the total imports for the last five years together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1902, as compared with the previous year.

The return of internal trade between the Presidencies shows a total value of goods exchanged or imported of £23,125, as against £17,594 during the previous year.

Table IV. of the Appendix shows the aggregate values of the various articles or goods imported during the last five years.

An anlysis of the imports into the three classes prescribed for the Board of Trade returns shows that, in Class I., food, drink, and narcotics, there was an increase of £4,425; in Class II., raw materials, an increase of £6,705; and in Class III., manufactured articles, an increase of £5,126.

The increase under Class I. is largely due to the presence of the Imperial troops stationed in Antigua in the middle of 1902, and the growing agricultural prosperity of Dominica also contributed to this increase. In St. Kitts and Montserrat decreases of £3,332 and £630 respectively occurred under this head.

With the exception of Antigua, the value of the imports under Class II. shows very little change, in comparison with last year. In Antigua the large increase of £7,184 occurred chiefly from the importation of lumber for the erection of the Military Camp. Under the item "Pitch Pine," the amount imported more than trebled the importation in 1901.

The increase under Class III. is due to the improved conditions, above referred to, prevailing in the Presidencies of Antigua and Dominica.

It is satisfactory to note that the impetus given to trade in Antigua by the presence of the Imperial troops was not followed by such a depression as was not unnaturally anticipated.

Exports.

The total value of the exports from the Colony during the year under review was £317,835, as against £307,344 in 1901.

For the exports from the Colony for the last five years, *see* Table V. of the Appendix.

Increase of Exports to the United Kingdom and Colonies.

The total exports to the United Kingdom show an increase of £17,918 over 1901. This satisfactory result is due chiefly to the increased exportation to the Mother Country of fruit, both fresh and preserved, especially from the Presidency of Dominica.

The large increase of £81,540 in the value of the exports to British Colonies is accounted for by the increased amount of sugar shipped to British North America, causing a corresponding decrease of £91,079 in the exports to the United States.

Table VI. of the Appendix shows the quantity and value of the principal exports for the last five years.

Sugar.

The export of sugar for 1902 was 30,339 tons, the largest since 1896. The increase over that of the preceding year was 8,349 tons, but owing to the unprecedentedly low prices obtaining, the value decreased by £22,078.

Rum.

The export of rum during 1902 amounted to 82,296 gallons, valued at £2,774, the whole of this, with the exception of 27 gallons, being exported from St. Kitts-Nevis.

Cocoa.

The export of cocoa for the year was 1,332,024 lbs., valued at £28,442, which, compared with 1901, shows an increase of 355,072 lbs. in quantity, and £5,544 in value.

Coffee.

The export of coffee has for years been on the decrease. The amount exported for the year was 4,404 lbs., valued at £106. In 1897 the export was 20,533 lbs., valued at £722.

The whole of the cocoa and coffee, with the exception of a few pounds, exported from the Leeward Islands is the produce of Dominica.

Limes and Lime Juice.

Dominica and Montserrat are the islands from which the great bulk of these exports comes. The amount exported from the former Presidency for the year was £42,138, and from the latter £5,465.

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There is, in Dominica, one sulphur mine at Soufriere, and there are mines containing molybdenum and copper in Virgin Gorda, one of the Virgin Islands group. Phosphates are found in the islands of Redonda and Barbuda.

MANUFACTURES.

Sugar.

Sugar is the principal manufacture of the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis. With the low prices that prevailed during the year, only the most favourably placed and economically managed estates were able to pay their way.

Rum.

Rum is manufactured chiefly in the island of St. Kitts.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANIC STATIONS.

The estimated acreage of cultivated land in Antigua is 16,481 acres out of 52,794 acres, in St. Kitts-Nevis (exclusive of Anguilla) 18,268 out of 75,520 acres. In Dominica there are about 177,549 acres of uncultivated land, of which about 80,000 are Crown lands suitable for cultivation.

Sugar constitutes the chief agricultural industry of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Montserrat: the production of lime-juice, esential oil of limes, and cacao are the main industries of Dominica, while considerable quantities of lime juice are exported from Montserrat.

The grant made by the Imperial Government for the relief of the sugar industry of the West Indies, pending the abolition of bounties by the operation of the Brussels Convention has already been dealt with.

In Antigua there are established ten, and in St. Kitts nine, local sugar experiment stations, where experiments are being carried on, in order to select and introduce into local cultivation the most productive varieties of sugar cane, and also by experiment to ascertain the manurial requirements of the sugar cane under the special conditions prevailing in various localities. The work at these stations is carried on jointly by officers working in connection with the Imperial Department of Agriculture and by the planters. Reports of the work done are published annually, and have had an important bearing on the work of the sugar plantations.

In Antigua there has been maintained in connection with the Botanic Station a small station for the experimental cultivation of various economic plants other than sugar cane: here experiments have been conducted with yams, sweet potatoes, eddoes, guinea corn, corn (maize), beans, cotton, and a variety of other products of interest. Similar work has also been done in connection with the Experiment Station in Montserrat, and a small station of a like nature has been started in St. Kitts. Reports on this work are issued annually.

Botanic Stations, or their equivalents, are established in every Presidency, and herein are conducted experiments with, and experimental cultivations of, various plants adapted to local conditions, either with the object of improving the cultivation of established kinds, or of introducing improved varieties, or of introducing entirely new plants with the hope of establishing new industries. These stations serve as centres from which economic plants are distributed to local cultivators, who readily avail themselves of the facilities thus offered.

In Antigua the pineapple industry has been making steady progress of recent years; an experiment station for imported varieties of pineapples has been started under the direction of the Imperial Department of Agriculture at an estate in the locality most suitable for this industry.

The cultivation of tobacco on an experimental scale has been continued in Antigua and St. Kitts. From results obtained at the latter island, there appears to be reasonable ground to hope for the establishment of a cigar-tobacco industry there in the course of time, as the soil appears very suitable for the cultivation of tobacco of that grade.

The efforts to establish cacao in Nevis have been satisfactorily continued, and there seems to be some probability of this industry being carried on on a small scale, as there exist in Nevis a few well-sheltered valleys which promise to make good cacao estates.

The onion industry of the Leeward Islands appears to be now fairly established. Shipments have been made by local planters from Antigua, and have given satisfactory returns.

Agricultural shows have been held each year in Antigua and Dominica at the instance, and under the direction, of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. At these Shows prizes are awarded by the Department and the Local Governments for the best exhibits in each class of a widely comprehensive list, and thus much is done to further the economic industries of the islands.

Increasing attention has been paid to the cultivation of cotton. In 1902 moderately extensive areas of land were put under cotton cultivation by Messrs. Wade & Co. on their properties in St. Kitts and Montserrat; and in both islands machinery for ginning and baling by steam power was imported and erected by the above firm. At the end of March, 1903, everything was in order for ginning the crop. A gin sent out by the British Cotton Growing Association was also set up in Montserrat.

In Antigua small experiments were carried out on the experiment stations and by various planters in order to ascertain the suitability of cotton as a regular crop. A small hand gin was introduced by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for dealing with this experimental crop.

The West India Bulletin or Journal of the Imperial Department of Agriculture (Quarterly) affords much information concerning the work of the Department in the Leeward Islands and elsewhere. A new fortnightly publication of the Department, "The Agricultural News," was issued for the purpose of affording information on current events of agricultural interest. Numerous reports and pamphlets were also issued, all of which publications are full of information to those who are engaged in the industries touched upon.

(D.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

The general value of land varies so greatly in the different Presidencies, and according to its suitability for sugar or other cultivation that it is almost impossible to obtain reliable statistics as to value. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane land may be taken at the present moment to range between

£4 and £8 per acre. Crown lands can be purchased in Dominica at a cost of 10*s.* per acre, and survey fees of about 3*s.* per acre.

Grants of Crown land continue to be made in the last named island, and several extensive blocks have been sold in the year under report to new settlers possessing a moderate amount of capital, and a large number of small lots were purchased by peasants. Squatters on Crown lands have been encouraged to come forward and legalise the possession of holdings which they or their fathers before them have in many cases made valuable.

(E.) SHIPPING.

The total number of steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared in the Colony during the year was 1,266 and 7,663 respectively, the total tonnage of the former being 1,798,740 and the latter 86,808 tons.

For summary of tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in each island of the Colony, *see* Table VII. of the Appendix.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands was in session from the 13th to the 18th March, during which time seventeen acts were passed. The most important of these were (1) No. 5 of 1902, "The Supreme Court Amendment Act, 1902." By this Act the number of the Judges of the Supreme Court was reduced from three to two, and Antigua was fixed as their place of residence. An amending Act passed during the session of 1903 has provided for one judge residing in Dominica. Prior to this a judge resided in each of the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Dominica. (2) No. 11 of 1902, "The Pensions Act, 1902." The principal amendments made by this Act in the Pension Laws of the Colony are (a) the retirement, if he so desires, of any public officer at the age of 55 years, and (b) provision by which an officer transferred from this Colony to certain other Colonies is entitled, on his ultimate retirement on pension, to a pension for the period during which he served in this Colony, provided that such period be not less than 12 months. The Act is identical with enactments which have been passed in Trinidad, British Honduras, and the three Colonies composing the Windward Islands, and this assimilation of the Pension Law of different Colonies will facilitate the transfer of Officers from one to another. (3) No. 16 of 1902, "The Constitution (Virgin Islands) Act, 1902," by which the Legislative Council of the Virgin Islands was abolished, and the power of making laws vested solely in the Governor.

In Antigua 11 Ordinances were passed, the only one calling for remark being No. 7 of 1902, "The Country Health

Ordinance, 1902." Under this Ordinance a Central Board consisting of seven members and District Boards appointed by the Governor are entrusted with the sanitation of the Country Districts.

In St. Kitts-Nevis 13 Ordinances were passed. No. 6 consolidates and amends the law relating to the trade and revenue of the Presidency. No. 7 provides for the relief of the sugar industry by the suspension of the export taxes on sugar, and the land tax on land in cane cultivation.

Nine Ordinances were passed in the Presidency of Dominica, No. 9, "The Roseau Town Board Ordinance, 1902," being the only one of any importance. This Ordinance (*inter alia*) made provision for the Registration of voters and for voting by ballot.

In Montserrat six Ordinances were passed, and in the Virgin Islands seven. None of these call for any remarks.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) Primary Education.

The number of children on the rolls of the Government and State-aided Primary Schools for the year 1902-3 was 23,079, as against 20,923 for the previous year; the average attendance being 10,475, as compared with 9,657 in 1901-2.

The falling off in the attendance at the schools which has been experienced in the years succeeding 1896 (in which year the attendance reached high water mark) would seem now to have been arrested, since the number on the books was for 1902-3 only 10 less than in 1896.

The average attendance has, however, not improved proportionally, and this is attributed by the Inspector of Schools to the large increase during the last few years, in the emigration of able-bodied labourers and artisans to neighbouring islands and to the United States. The burden of providing for families, in many cases large, has in consequence been thrown upon the mothers, and they have been compelled to withdraw their children from school as soon as the compulsory limit of age has been reached.

Where the head of the family is absent the few pence earned by the children are a considerable addition to the precarious and scanty wage of the mother, who is faced not only with the problem of finding food, but the still greater one of clothing. It is hardly to be wondered at that, under the circumstances the advantages of compulsory education are not always fully appreciated. These remarks apply principally to Antigua and St. Kitts.

The prevalence of "Yaws" in Dominica and Montserrat also affects adversely the attendance at many of the schools.

The following table gives the number of scholars on the rolls of the Government and State-aided Schools, the average attendance, school fees, Government grants, and voluntary contributions for the last five years.

—	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901-2.	1902-3.
Number on roll	22,772	22,529	22,624	20,923	23,079
Average attendance ...	10,145	10,446	9,409	9,657	10,475
	£	£	£	£	£
School fees	228	180	129	98	91
Government Grant	6,223	6,139	6,181	6,255	6,347
Voluntary contributions ...	563	569	369	686	488

15,047, or 65·2 per cent. of the children enrolled, were present at the annual examinations, and 10,395, or 45 per cent., were examined; the increase over last year being respectively 1,229 and 641.

Agricultural Instruction.

For the past three years lectures on subjects connected with agriculture have been delivered in each of the Presidencies by officers of the Imperial Department of Agriculture to teachers and others, many of whom exhibit an intelligent interest in this new work. Tools have also been provided by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for school gardens, which have been established in all the Presidencies, with the exception of the Virgin Islands. This subject has now been made compulsory in the Education Code lately issued.

Pupil Teachers.

The annual examination of pupil teachers was held on 26th November, 1902, and the following day with the results given below.

—	First.	Second.	Third.	Total.
Presented	59	32	19	110
Passed	35	17	15	67
Percentage of passes ...	59·3	53·1	78·9	60·9

(B.) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The following table gives particulars of the Secondary Schools of the Colony.

Name.	On Roll.	Average Attendance.	Grant.
			£
Antigua Grammar School	47	45	200
Antigua Girls' High School*	21	19·75	100
Spring Gardens Female Training College	13	13	150
St. Kitts Grammar School	35	33	200
Dominica Grammar School	17	15·3	252

The work of the endowed Secondary Schools throughout the Colony is tested annually under the Cambridge Local Examination Scheme. Examinations were held in Antigua and Dominica. Of 21 candidates presented at the Antigua centre last year 13 passed, one with honours. At the Dominica centre six, out of seven candidates presented, passed.

Instruction in the principles of agriculture at the Grammar School, St. Kitts, is given at the instance of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, which provides the services of a science master, and awards scholarships. In January, 1903, the services of an agricultural and science master for Antigua were procured for instruction in agriculture in connection with secondary education, and scholarships were provided, also by the Department, tenable at the Grammar School, where the Agricultural and Science Master gives regular courses of instruction.

An Agricultural School has been established by the Imperial Department of Agriculture in Dominica, where twenty resident boys receive the rudiments of elementary education, and are trained in the manual work appertaining to the agricultural industries applicable to Dominica. The school continues to work well, and appears to supply a decided want in the economy of the Presidency.

Mico Training College.

Owing to the abolition of the Mico Training College for teachers in Antigua, students obtaining scholarships are now sent to the Mico Institution in Jamaica.

(C.) INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL, OR AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

On the 31st March, 1903, there were at the Skerretts (Boys) Training School 71 inmates belonging to Antigua, 14 to St. Kitts, three to Nevis, two to Anguilla, two to Montserrat, and three to Dominica, making a total of 95 boys. The number of admissions for the last twelve months was 20, as against 19 discharged.

The health of the boys on the whole was satisfactory. Malarial fever was, as usual, the prevailing complaint. There were 194 cases among the boys during the year.

Recommendations as to the filling up and draining of the stagnant pools of water in the neighbourhood, made by a committee of medical officers appointed to report on the sanitary condition of the school, have been carried out. This will without doubt tend to considerably improve the health of the inmates.

Stock Farm.

The receipts of the stock farm attached to the School amounted in 1902-3 to £397, and the expenditure to £427. These figures, compared with those for 1901-2, show a decrease in the revenue of £56, and an increase in the expenditure of £31.

The usual sale of cane plants was held at the end of 1902, at which 130,000 cane plants from the best varieties were bought by the planters; 38,000 were also distributed free to the local variety stations.

The water supply to the farm has been greatly improved during the year, a pure supply being now obtained from the Wallings reservoir.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

There are five principal hospitals in the Leeward Islands, viz.: one in each of the islands of Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat.

The number of cases treated during the year was 3,282. The daily average number of beds occupied was 427, against 397 during the preceding year. There were 455 deaths, as compared with 486 in the previous year. This high death rate is chiefly due to the fact that in a large number of cases patients are admitted in an almost dying condition, and others suffering from diseases in an advanced stage.

Principal Diseases treated.

Skin diseases contributed the largest number of cases treated, being 379 with 25 deaths.

There were 199 cases of syphilis with 10 deaths. Malarial fever contributed 165 cases with 12 deaths. 1,975 patients were discharged as cured, 772 as relieved, 75 not improved, and 422 remained at the end of the year.

There were 474 operations performed, attended by a mortality of seven, or 1·48 per cent. All the deaths occurred in the Cunningham Hospital, St. Kitts.

The total expenditure for the year was £10,317.

Table VIII. of the Appendix shows the number of patients admitted during the year, the number discharged, and the number of deaths which took place in each of the hospitals of the Colony.

It has been already stated above that the expenditure of £6,000 was sanctioned by the Imperial Government in the latter part of the year for the erection of a new hospital in Antigua, and that £1,500 of this amount was expended in the purchase of the huts erected for the accommodation of Boer prisoners of war and their escort. These buildings are now in process of conversion.

(B.) Lunatic Asylums.

There are two lunatic asylums in the Colony, both of which are in Antigua, viz.: Rat Island and the Ridge. The Ridge Asylum is reserved for harmless and convalescent lunatics.

To these institutions the lunatics from the other Presidencies are sent, the amount contributed for the maintenance per head being £20 per annum.

There were 114 patients in the two asylums at the beginning of the year; 116 at the close—68 males and 48 females. 29 males and 16 females were admitted during the year, making 159 under treatment, or 10 more than last year. Four patients were transferred from Rat Island to the Ridge; 27 patients were discharged, and 16 died. The deaths were chiefly due to exhaustion after diarrhœa.

The expenditure of these institutions for 1902-3 was £1,762.

(C.) Leper Asylums.

There were two leper asylums in the Colony at the beginning of the year; one at Rat Island in Antigua, and one in St. Kitts.

The conditions which prevailed amongst the lepers at Rat Island were eminently unsatisfactory.

The limited accommodation available rendered it impossible to prevent intercourse between the sexes, and the question of providing for cases of healthy children born from leper parents was one that was always likely to arise. The difficulty was solved by converting a small quarantine station across the harbour into a Female Leper Asylum.

The law relating to lepers embodies the principle of compulsory segregation, but its provisions require that admissions to an asylum must be on the order of a Magistrate, and this order can only be made under the conditions prescribed by the Act.

There were 100 patients in the leper asylums of the Colony at the beginning of the year; 15 were admitted during the year, and 62 were discharged. Four deaths occurred.

(D.) SAVINGS BANKS.

Savings Banks have been established in each of the Presidencies of the Colony, with the exception of the Virgin Islands.

The number of depositors and the amount to their credit on the 31st December, 1902, were as follows:—

—	No.	Amount.
		£
Antigua	1,773	41,225
St. Kitts	426	9,376
Nevis	65	2,404
Dominica	432	7,823
Montserrat	161	3,580
	2,857	64,408

Against this liability of £64,408, invested funds amounted to £64,820, and cash in hand to £1,516.

The following table shows the number of depositors, the amounts deposited and withdrawn in the Colony for the last five years.

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Deposited.	Withdrawn.
		£	£
1898	2,491	21,008	19,503
1899	2,644	25,355	18,084
1900	2,429	23,586	23,763
1901	2,516	23,669	21,330
1902	2,857	21,560	22,719

From the above return it will be seen that the number of depositors at the end of 1902 largely exceeded those in previous years. The amount of the deposits and withdrawals, however, did not exceed the average.

The Savings Banks on the whole show a direct profit to the Government. The excess of interest on investments over interest paid to depositors and all costs of mangement amounted in the year under review to £22; the income and expenditure being as shown below:—

Income.		Expenditure.	
	£		£
Interest on Investments ...	2,062	Manageme t	163
		Interest on Deposits ...	1,877
		Profit	22
	2,062		2,062

This, however, does not represent the true profit for the year, as £56 was charged to "Clerical Services" account of the Antigua Savings Bank, which should have been included in the accounts for the year before. An item of £10 was also incorrectly charged to expense account, and has since been transferred. The true profit was therefore £88.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) CRIME.

No special features or exceptional conditions are disclosed by an examination of the Criminal Statistics for the year. The number of persons summoned before the Magistrates by the Police was 13,237, comparing with 14,261 in 1901, and 12,962 in the previous year.

The total number of convictions at the Circuit Court was 39, comparing with 72 in 1901, and in the Magistrates Courts 6,680, against 7,421 in the previous year. Of the summary convictions before Magistrates 1,578 were for offences against the person, against 1,339 in 1901; 546, against 504, for offences against property other than prædial larceny; 254, against 395, for prædial larceny, and the remainder 4,302 for other offences, principally disorderly conduct, abusive language, and cruelty to animals.

Of the convictions in the Circuit Courts 15 were for offences against the person (four less than last year); four for prædial larceny (eight less than in 1901); 19, compared with 29, for offences against property other than prædial larceny, and one, against 12 last year, for other offences.

The above figures show a satisfactory decrease of nearly 50 per cent. in the convictions in the Circuit Courts in 1902, as compared with 1901.

A large number of the petty offences are committed by habitual criminals, who are too lazy to work, and who do not particularly object to a brief period of residence in a prison, where there is a sufficiency of food, and no very exhausting work.

From the returns under the head "Prisons" it may be seen that of 1,402 persons committed to prison for the year, 654 had previously been committed. Of these 213 were convictions for the second time, 110 for the third, and 331 for the fourth or more. It is gratifying to note, however, the continued decrease in the number of convictions for prædial larceny, of which so very much is heard. It is almost as difficult to keep a negro from depredations on growing crops generally, as it is (or, perhaps, used to be) to prevent an English schoolboy from robbing an orchard.

(B.) Police.

The armed Police Force of the Leeward Islands numbered on the 31st December last, a total strength of 189 officers and men, viz., 1 inspector-general, 3 inspectors, 3 sergeant-majors, 182 other non-commissioned officers and men. Of these 1 inspector, 1 sergeant-major, and 67 other non-commissioned officers and men were stationed at Antigua, including 1 sergeant in Barbuda; 1 inspector, 1 sergeant-major, and 60 other non-commissioned officers and men in St. Kitts-Nevis; 1 inspector, and 34 non-commissioned officers and men in Dominica; 1 sergeant-major, and 20 non-commissioned officers and men in Montserrat, and 1 second-class private in the Virgin Islands.

(C.) Prisons.

Antigua Central Prison.

The prison in Antigua is the central one for the Colony, and to it are sent from the other Presidencies all prisoners whose sentences exceed six months. (In Montserrat one month.)

Staff.

The staff of the Central Prison consisted of the chief keeper, chief warder, and 16 other warders. There is also a matron and assistant in charge of the female prisoners.

The number of admissions from Antigua during the year was 403, as against 459 in 1901. This is the smallest number admitted in any one year for the last 12 years. 36 prisoners were received from the other Presidencies, viz., 17 from St. Kitts-Nevis, 5 from Dominica, and 14 from Montserrat. The daily average number in prison was 88, as against 101 in 1901. This number included, besides the ordinary criminals, certain soldiers of the Northumberland Fusiliers who were committed to prison for breaches of military discipline.

Employment of Prisoners.

The prisoners were employed, as in former years, in cooking, baking bread for the other Government institutions, making and mending prison clothing and bedding, washing, cleaning, and other miscellaneous labour. A good deal of stone breaking and quarrying is also done by the prisoners.

Cost of Upkeep.

The expenditure on this institution for the year 1902-3 was £2,289; the receipts from various sources amounted to £1,316, leaving a net expenditure of £973.

During the year a "Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society" was organised, an amount of £20 being granted from general funds towards its support.

This society supplies a long-felt want in temporarily providing for prisoners, who on discharge from prison may be in an utterly destitute and friendless condition.

The heads of the several religious bodies and other gentlemen have become members of the society, and great interest appears to be shown in its working.

The Central Prison is one of the best managed institutions in the Colony.

Throughout the Colony the total number of commitals to prison was 1,402, as against 1,561 in 1901. The following table shows the numbers sent to prison in each of the Presidencies.

Number sent to Prison in each of the Presidences.

Presidency.	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.	Total.
Antigua	213	190	—	403
St. Kitts-Nevis	320	277	7	604
Dominica	146	153	3	302
Montserrat...	57	29	—	86
Virgin Islands	4	3	—	7
Total	740	652	10	1,402

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The census for the Leeward Islands was taken throughout the Colony on the night of the 31st March, 1901.

According to the returns, the population of the Colony was 127,434, consisting of 56,851 males and 70,583 females, as against 127,723 in 1891, showing a net decrease of 289 during the last decade.

The following summary shows the population of each Presidency according to the census of 1891 and that of last year, together with the increase or decrease in each case.

POPULATION OF EACH PRESIDENCY.

Presidency.	1891.			1901.			1901.		Net in 1901.	
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
Antigua (including Barbuda and Redonda)	17,242	19,577	36,819	15,878	19,093	34,971	—	1,848	—	—
St. Kitts-Nevis and Anguilla...	22,008	25,654	47,662	20,269	26,177	46,446	—	1,216	—	—
Dominica	12,059	14,782	26,841	12,870	16,024	28,894	2,053	—	—	—
Montserrat	5,331	6,431	11,762	5,580	6,635	12,215	453	—	—	—
Virgin Islands	2,140	2,499	4,639	2,254	2,654	4,908	269	—	—	—
Total	58,780	68,943	127,723	56,851	70,583	127,434	2,775	3,064	—	289

From the above figures it will be observed that the only Islands in which a decrease of population occurs are the sugar-producing Islands of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis.

In Antigua there is a decrease of 1,941, in St. Kitts 1,094, and in Nevis 313, while in Dominica, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands increases of 2,053, 453, and 269 respectively are shown.

There was also an increase of 191 in Anguilla, and 195 in Barbuda over the figures of the census of 1891.

The excess of females over males is 13,733, as against 10,163 in 1891, and may be taken as an indication of the emigration of males who have left these Islands in search of employment elsewhere, in a great many cases leaving their wives and families without any visible means of support; these eventually find their way into the charitable institutions of the Colony, and become a charge on the Government.

(B.) BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES.

The following table compares the births, deaths, and marriages in 1901 and 1902. The rates per thousand of the population are given below:—

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
1901	4,730 37·1	3,477 27·3	682 5·3
1902	4,845 37·6	3,249 25·2	648 5·04

There thus appears, as compared with the previous year, an increase in births of 115 in number, and 0·5 in the rate per 1,000, and a decrease in the deaths of 0·5 in the rate per 1,000.

These figures are so small that both the birth and death rate may be regarded as stationary. The marriages show a decrease of 34, but these figures cannot be taken as correct as in the Presidency of Montserrat marriages are not in every instance registered. The law is defective, and there is at present no means of enforcing registration.

Illegitimacy.

The percentage of illegitimate births in the year under review was 61·5, or 0·2 per cent. above the average for the last five years.

(C.) HEALTH.

The general health of the Colony during the year was on the whole satisfactory. No epidemics of a serious nature occurred, though the deaths, especially among infants, from dysentery and diarrhœa were in no way below the average.

In Antigua and St. Kitts Boards were established to control the sanitation of the country districts. This was a long felt want, as most of the villages were and still are in a most insanitary condition.

Some improvements have been made, but until the peasants realise that their present uncleanly habits are responsible for most of the diseases that attack them, the efforts of the Government to improve their condition are of little avail.

(D.) CLIMATE.

(1.) *Rainfall.*

The average rainfall recorded at 71 stations in Antigua during 1902 was 58·80 inches, as against 57·61 inches recorded at 65 stations in 1901. The average rainfall for 29 years from 1874 to 1902, inclusive, was 46·42 inches, so that the rainfall for 1902 was 9·38 inches above the average for that period. The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 2·33 inches on November 25th.

In St. Kitts, the rainfall recorded at the United States Weather Bureau was 46·05 inches, as against 61·15 inches during the previous year. The greatest amount in 24 hours was 3·25 inches on November 25th.

In Dominica, the average rainfall recorded at 30 stations was 113·23 inches. The greatest amount of rain recorded was at "Middleham" Estate, where 230·88 inches fell. Several other estates recorded rainfalls of considerably over 100 inches.

In Montserrat, the average rainfall recorded at 3 stations was 60·5 inches, the highest rainfall being 76·25 inches, and the lowest 49·33 inches.

(2.) *Temperature.*

In Antigua, the highest shade temperature recorded at the Government Laboratory was 90° on September 3rd and 16th, and the lowest 67° on February 5th, the mean temperature for the year being 81·9° at 9 a.m., and 83·0° at 3 p.m. Five slight shocks of earthquake were recorded.

In St. Kitts, the highest temperature recorded was 88° on 3rd September, and the lowest, 66°, on March 29th.

In Montserrat, the highest temperature was 93° on January 3rd, and the lowest, 68°, on December 22nd.

(3.) *Direction and Force of Wind.*

The prevailing direction of the wind in the Leeward Islands is East, with occasional variations to North-East and East-North-East. The average velocity per hour was 5 miles in Antigua, 8·8 miles in St. Kitts. These figures are not however a reliable index to the conditions generally prevailing in the respective Islands.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

(A.) POST OFFICE.

Receipts and Expenditure.

The following tables show the revenue and expenditure for postal services for the last five years:—

Year.	Sale of Stamps, &c.	Commission on Money Orders.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1898	3,027	455	26	3,508
1899	4,298	573	29	4,900
1900	3,162	559	50	3,771
1901-2 ...	3,454	507	46	4,007
1902-3 ...	5,255	406	48	5,799

Year.	Salaries, &c.	Conveyance of Mails.	Total.
	£	£	£
1898	3,343	2,263	5,606
1899	3,288	2,263	5,551
1900	3,035	2,263	5,298
1901-2	2,890	2,563	5,453
1902-3	2,672	2,734	5,406

The revenue for 1902-3 shows an increase of £1,792 over that of 1901-2. This increase is in a large measure due to the issue of new stamps.

Correspondence.

The total number of postcards and letters that passed through the various offices of the Colony in the year was 613,761, as against 572,313 in 1901. Book packets totalled 173,447, as against 175,415 in the preceding year.

The number of parcels received and despatched by Parcels Post was 8,707, being an increase of 896 over that for 1901.

Registered articles numbered 15,930.

Foreign Mails.

Besides the regular fortnightly service of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, steamers of the Quebec Company and of the Pickford and Black Line have been made use of for the exchange of mails between the United Kingdom, Canada, and the Leeward Islands.

Mail Subsidies.

For the conveyance of ocean mails this Colony paid during the year:—

	£
Contribution to Subsidy, Royal Mail Steam Packet Company	2,580
Proportion of postage to Imperial Post Office ...	662
Transit dues to other countries and carriage of mails by non-contract vessels	78
	£3,320

Owing to a re-assessment of the amount of contribution to the subsidy of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the amount payable by this Colony has since been reduced to £2,250.

Money Orders.

The total amount of Money Orders issued in the Colony was £22,444, as against £23,410 in 1901.

The amount of orders cashed was £22,101, exceeding that for last year by £3,365.

The increase in the amount of orders cashed was especially noticeable in the Presidency of Montserrat, the excess of orders paid in 1902 over 1901 being £3,882. This is attributable to the remittances sent by the large numbers of the labouring classes who have emigrated to neighbouring islands and to the United States.

(B.) TELEGRAPHS.

The subsidies paid to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company amount to £1,400 per annum, of which Antigua pays £500, St. Kitts-Nevis, £500, and Dominica, £400. There is no telegraphic communication with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands.

(C.) TELEPHONES.

Telephones are in operation in the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica, there being at the end of 1902, 145 instruments in use and 260 miles of wire in Antigua; 79 instruments and 251 miles of wire in St. Kitts; and 36 instruments and 96 miles of wire in Dominica.

Receipts and Expenditure.

The receipts in the three Presidencies for the year amounted to £1,130, and the expenditure to £1,314, showing a net loss of £284 on the service.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

VOLUNTEER.

Volunteer Defence Forces have been established in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis.

In Antigua, the Force was established on the occasion of Her late Majesty's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. The St. John's Mounted Infantry and Infantry Companies numbered on the 31st December, 1902, 76 officers and men. In St. Kitts-Nevis a Volunteer Defence Force has been established since 1896, and numbered on the 31st December, 1902, 53 officers and men.

The expenditure in Antigua on the Defence Force in 1902-3 was £183, and in St. Kitts-Nevis, £245.

X.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Sir Henry Jackson, K.C.M.G., who had assumed the Government of the Colony six months before, was transferred early in May to the Colony of Fiji.

During the time that elapsed between the date of his departure and the appointment of his successor, Sir George Melville, K.C.M.G., acted as Governor.

Sir Gerald Strickland, K.C.M.G., assumed the Government on the 1st October, 1902.

On the departure of Sir George Melville to take up the appointment of Administrator of St. Lucia, Mr. E. St. John Branch, Attorney-General, was appointed to the combined post of Colonial Secretary and Attorney-General.

Mr. W. H. Stoker (Attorney-General) had in August been offered and accepted the post of Attorney-General of Barbados.

XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The condition of the Colony financially was more satisfactory for the year under review than has been the case for some years. The Brussels Sugar Convention will put fresh life into Central Factory schemes, and with bounties abolished and up to date machinery taking the place of the venerable appliances that now do duty on so many estates, the financial outlook must improve. It is too soon to speak with any certainty of the future of the cotton industry in these islands, but if it be found that the diseases to which the plant is subject can be successfully combated, the prosperity of the Colony as a whole will have been assured. The restoration of financial equilibrium in the Presidencies of Antigua and Montserrat is very much to be desired from every point of view. The Imperial taxpayer will be eased of a burden, and the pauperising effect of doles will be removed. Their effect is too frequently to banish self-help and all healthy interest in Government and its measures.

ANTIGUA.

The prosperity of this island being chiefly dependent on the welfare of its principal agricultural industry, sugar, was seriously affected by the unprecedentedly low prices that prevailed during the year.

The distress among the labouring classes was alleviated to some extent by the assistance given by the Imperial Government to enable the planters to keep their estates in cultivation. The sugar crop, which was the largest since 1896, also gave employment to a larger number of labourers than usual.

Among the artisans and tradespeople the depression was not so apparent, the preparations necessary for the reception of Imperial Troops having provided employment for some months for the former, and increased the circulation of money among the latter.

The duties collected on the imports were also considerably increased by the same causes, and instead of the estimated deficit of £8,249 being realised, the excess of expenditure over revenue at the end of the year amounted to £2,597 only.

BARBUDA.

The Island of Barbuda, which is a dependency of Antigua, is plentifully stocked with game, and excellent deer shooting may be had.

The proportion of revenue derived from imports which is credited yearly to Barbuda from Antigua Funds was increased from £300 to £440.

With this additional revenue and with the balance of the Imperial Grant of £500, endeavours are being made to render Barbuda paying as a stock farm.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

The Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis may be said to have emerged from dependence on the Imperial Government and to be once more self-supporting. For eight years prior to 1901-2, the annual deficit averaged £5,000 a year. In that year the revenue just met the expenditure without Imperial aid, and the year under review closed with an excess of assets of £2,600. No additional taxation has been levied, except a small house tax yielding £370 a year, to provide for sinking fund and interest for an old loan for the improvement of Basseterre. There has been a considerable all round reduction of expenditure, but public works generally have not been stinted, most of the buildings have been repaired or painted, the piers of the Presidency have been rebuilt or repaired, and with one exception, all are in excellent order.

Cotton is being grown in St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla, and recent shipments have realised very satisfactory prices. Some damage was caused by caterpillars, but the method of dealing with them is now understood and easily applied.

DOMINICA.

This island may once more be congratulated on the review of a prosperous year. Steady progress is observable in almost every direction, while the material advancement, shown by the statistical returns, indicates that the people of Dominica are steadily developing the resources of the island.

The population, though strikingly inadequate to the possibilities of the Presidency, is increasing in a satisfactory manner. Emigration appears to have been largely reduced, and considerable numbers of labourers continue to arrive from the neighbouring islands of the group. This influx of able-bodied men and women has, in some measure, relieved the tension of the labour-supply, and may be expected to contribute to the purchasing power of the community in general.

The trade of the Presidency, in imports and exports, during 1902 represented a total value of £170,000, a figure considerably in excess of any previous record. For the first time in the history of the island, the local value of the exports exceeded the net value of the imports.

In spite of the fact that the prices of the staple products were rather lower than those ruling in the preceding year, the total value of the exports represented an increase of £14,000. The output of cocoa showed a rise of nearly 35 per cent., while the exports of raw and concentrated lime juice exceeded those of 1901 by over 100,000 gallons. It is interesting to note that the local values of the two chief products, cocoa and lime juice, are almost equal, showing that the planters are evidently alive to the advantage of dividing their risks. If we compare the present exports with those of ten years ago, we find some interesting and satisfactory changes. The production of sugar then represented about £17,000, as against only £1,500 last year. On the other hand, the value of cocoa shipped in 1892 was £9,700, as compared with £29,000 in 1902. Lime juice has risen from £11,000 to £39,000, while essential oils have gone up from £3 to £3,368. Other products, for which Dominica is particularly adapted, are also not being neglected, and satisfactory increases may be noted in the exports of bananas, coconuts, oranges, and other fresh fruits.

The financial position of the Government continues to be very satisfactory. Without any increase of taxation, the revenue for 1903 shows a considerable improvement over that of the preceding year, and is the highest on record. In spite of heavy expenditure on public works, in various directions, the financial year closed with a surplus slightly over £6,000. Of this amount, £4,000 is lying invested as a Reserve Fund, and proposals for the expenditure of a portion of the balance on public improvements have been approved by the Secretary of State.

It is encouraging to find that the chief improvements in the collections of revenue are due to increased imports and exports. Customs duties produced £13,800, as against £12,300 in 1901, while the export duty realised £2,089, as compared with £1,833 in the preceding year. There were also very satisfactory increases in the receipts from Excise, Post Office, and Liquor Licences.

Various public improvements were carried out during the year under consideration. Telephonic communication was established between Roseau and Portsmouth, and is already of great value to the public in general. The system is now in good working order, and has 96 miles of wire, with 36 subscribers. It is being worked and managed economically, and is already proving a remunerative undertaking.

The most important public work completed during the year was the erection of a large iron bridge over the Layou River. Much credit is due to the Colonial Engineer, Mr. Miller, for having successfully carried out this difficult work at a cost below the estimate, and the Presidency is to be congratulated on the completion of this handsome bridge. The road from Canefield to Layou was rendered fit for wheeled traffic, and the other roads in the island have been maintained in such fair order as was possible with the small means at disposal. The Imperial Road has been practically completed from Roseau to Bassinville, a distance of 17 miles. Some small bridges over the rivers crossing it are now in course of construction, and it is hoped that this excellent highway will attract a number of settlers to the very fertile lands in the interior which have now been rendered easily accessible.

Among other public works carried out during 1902, may be cited the extensive repairs to the sea front at Roseau; the sea wall at Pointe Michel; the construction of a new Jury Room at the Court House; the provision of a fire-proof strong room for the Registrar's office; considerable repairs to the Treasury; the construction of a jetty at Marigot Bay; a small water supply for Souffriere; and the gradual improvement of public buildings generally.

It is almost supererogatory to refer again to the excellent work that is being done by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. The Botanic and Educational branches continue to prove themselves of the highest value, and the gratitude of the community is due to the Imperial Authorities for providing means which enable us to maintain such valuable institutions on so efficient a footing.

Steady progress is being made in the acquisition and development of the Crown lands of this Presidency. During 1902 there were 94 applicants for large and small blocks, as compared with 46 in 1901, and 49 in 1900. The funds accruing from these sales are being partly invested as a capital account, and partly devoted to the construction and maintenance of new roads intended to render accessible larger areas of Crown lands. A number of persons, who have been for many years in improper possession of considerable tracts, have been obliged to legalise their holdings, and a project is now under consideration for the creation of peasant settlements in various districts in the interior.

MONTSERRAT.

For Montserrat, had the price of sugar been even fairly good, the year would have been one of comparative prosperity, for the sugar crop was the largest since 1896. The lime cultivation was rapidly being restored, and the papain, onion, and other minor industries were extended. The low prices, however, dealt a crushing blow to the cultivation of sugar especially in the case of the small owners, many of whom being able to produce only inferior tests received debit notes in their account sales. The result of the disaster in the sugar industry induced several of the larger owners to turn their attention to cotton, and most favourable results have been obtained both as regards quantity and quality. The kind chiefly grown has been the Sea Island variety. The extension of cotton is seen on all sides as a result of the first sales.

Among the public works taken in hand in 1902 were:—

(*a.*) The erection of an office for the Master of the Hospital and Poor House.

(*b.*) The construction of a reservoir, containing about 8,000 gallons, at the south of the island.

(*c.*) The police station at Harris's Village, of which the Government had recently acquired the old building and land for £46, was pulled down, rebuilt and enclosed. Stabling and out-buildings were also added.

(*d.*) The police stations at Plymouth, Cudjoe Head and Salem, and the gaol, were thoroughly repaired and painted.

(*e.*) The large reservoir for Harris Water Works, constructed in the previous year, was covered over and several small reservoirs built in the village for the convenience of the people.

(*f.*) A portion of Harris Hill Road, which had been the source of much difficulty, was taken in hand and the large drop overcome.

(*g.*) Throughout the island, the roads were improved by the addition of culverts, and in other ways.

The Coronation of His Majesty was celebrated throughout the island with great rejoicings, and a large plot in the centre of the town was opened under the name of "Coronation Plot." The enclosure is divided into a public garden and agricultural plots for the use of the elementary school children.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The year 1902-3 was an uneventful one for the Virgin Islands. The trade returns show a slight increase in the value of imports, and a more satisfactory increase in the value of exports, bringing the latter to £4,027, or at the rate of 16*s.* 5*d.* per head of population; the imports being at the rate of only 12*s.* 10*d.* per head.

There can be little doubt that there is a large amount of smuggling carried on by the inhabitants, who are dependent on imports for all their clothing, and also for breadstuffs and other articles of food.

The Agricultural Department continues to make good progress in endeavouring to introduce new varieties of plants, and, above all, to re-introduce the cotton industry, which formed at one time the staple industry of the Presidency. In 1836, 55 bales were exported to the United Kingdom, while in the latter part of the 18th Century, the exports of cotton were very much greater.

The Port of St. Thomas is practically "free," it is only some 14 miles from Tortola, and there is daily communication between it and the Presidency, whose sheltered creeks and bays render smuggling difficult of detection.

E. St. John Branch,

Colonial Secretary,

Leeward Islands.

TABLE I.

Comparative Statement of Revenue collected in each Presidency of the Colony in the Years, 1901-2 *and* 1902-3.

Heads of Revenue.	Antigua.						St. Kitts-Nevis.						Dominica.						Montserrat.		
	1901–2.			1902-3.			1901–2.			1902-3.			1901–2.			1902-3.			1901–2.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs—																					
Import Duties on other than alcoholic liquors.	18,899	14	8	20,803	8	10	18,583	16	7	18,652	12	3	11,888	8	2	12,550	9	7	2,968	7	10
Import Duties on alcoholic liquor	2,763	4	8	2,898	5	8	3,522	16	2	3,387	18	4	1,412	3	3	1,251	2	6	1,392	2	1
Export Duty	—			—			3,060	7	4	2,915	19	9	1,853	19	9	2,089	10	4	—		
	21,662	19	4	23,701	14	6	25,167	0	1	24,956	10	4	15,154	6	3	15,891	2	5	4,360	9	11
Port and Harbour Dues, &c. ...	2,749	2	5	3,338	7	0	3,537	15	6	3,967	3	6	2,014	0	8	2,071	18	4	218	17	4
Internal Revenue—																					
Excise	3,552	9	5	3,777	8	2	3,347	17	2	4,041	0	5	4,366	9	3	4,677	19	9	—		
Taxes	4,663	12	0	4,382	17	7	4,445	11	11	1,743	18	1	3,184	9	5½	3,114	9	8½	662	12	0
Licences	1,354	11	8	1,395	7	10	1,921	3	4	2,047	14	0	1,769	19	3	1,785	6	11	275	18	1
Rates	70	1	2	—			784	10	6	382	7	4	89	0	2	72	2	0	54	19	7
Miscellaneous	296	6	4	353	17	10	346	15	6	454	16	10	533	3	9	656	2	9	74	14	6
	9,937	0	7	9,909	11	5	10,845	18	5	8,669	16	8	9,943	1	10½	10,306	1	1½	1,068	4	2
Fees of Court, &c.	5,426	18	4	5,911	2	5	2,141	0	3	1,188	17	7	1,354	6	0½	1,257	17	8½	197	6	8
Municipal Rates and Taxes ...	—			—			—			1,322	1	4	—			—			—		
Post Office, &c.	2,104	18	1	3,071	15	6	1,725	13	11	2,079	7	3	766	4	0	1,054	14	7½	320	3	10
Rents	99	3	4	102	7	11	198	7	10	110	11	8	28	0	6	84	18	9	—		
Interest	—			19	9	0	—			—			108	11	6	144	8	4	—		
Miscellaneous	96	7	0	340	12	11	176	14	3	478	6	1	229	17	8	63	13	9	31	3	0
Land Sales	—			—			—			—			—			170	0	0	—		
	42,067	9	1	46,395	0	8	43,792	10	3	42,772	14	5	29,598	8	6	31,044	15	0½	6,196	4	11

TABLE I—*cont.*

Heads of Revenue.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.		Total for Colony.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1902-3.	1901-2.	1902-3.	1901-2.	1902-3.	1902-3.	1902-3.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs—							
Import Duties on other than alcoholic liquors.	2,744 10 9	360 17 7	391 15 6	52,701 4 10	55,142 16 11	2,441 12 1	—
Import duties on alcoholic liquor	1,443 8 6	39 14 6	30 0 2	9,130 0 8	9,010 15 2	—	119 5 6
Export Duty	—	315 14 3	398 17 10	5,229 16 5	5,404 7 11	174 11 6	—
	4,187 19 3	716 6 4	820 13 6	67,061 1 11	69,558 0 0	—	—
Port and Harbour Dues, &c. ...	234 7 1	49 2 6	37 17 2	8,568 18 5	9,649 13 1	1,080 14 8	—
Internal Revenue—							
Excise	23 17 7	—	—	11,266 15 10	12,520 5 11	1,253 10 1	—
Taxes	780 2 6	358 5 6	332 15 5	13,314 10 10½	10,354 3 3½	—	2,960 7 7
Licences	296 17 0	214 11 2	197 3 3	5,536 3 6	5,722 9 0	186 5 6	—
Rates	60 17 11	—	—	998 11 5	515 7 3	—	483 4 2
Miscellaneous	86 2 3	26 3 3	26 13 7	1,277 3 4	1,577 13 3	300 9 11	—
	1,247 17 3	598 19 11	556 12 3	32,393 4 11½	30,689 18 8½	—	—
Fees of Court, &c.	260 11 2	39 19 3	106 11 2	9,213 10 6½	8,725 0 0½	—	488 10 6
Municipal Rates and Taxes ...	—	—	—	—	1,322 1 4	1,322 1 4	—
Post Office, &c.	353 15 5	302 7 9	319 14 10	5,219 7 7	6,879 7 7½	1,660 0 0½	—
Rents	2 11 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	316 15 8	300 13 4	—	16 2 4
Interest	—	10 8 0	4 10 0	118 19 6	168 7 4	49 7 10	—
Miscellaneous	2 9 5	19 5 7	1 0 1	553 7 6	886 2 3	332 14 9	—
Land Sales	4 0 0	5 0 0	1 0 0	5 0 0	175 0 0	170 0 0	—
	6,293 10 7	1,795 13 4	1,848 3 0	123,450 6 1	128,354 3 8½	8,971 7 8½	4,067 10 1

Net increase £4,903 17*s.* 7½*d.*

TABLE I—*cont.*

Comparative Statement of the Expenditure in each Presidency of the Colony in the Years, 1901–2 *and* 1902–3.

	Heads of Expenditure.	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Montserrat.
		1901-2.	1902-3.	1901-2.	1902-3.	1901-2.	1902-3.	1901-2.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Charges on Account of Public Debt	7,178 9 0	7,122 9 0	3,888 2 2	3,556 9 8	3,435 0 10	3,411 2 1	769 19 10
2	Pensions	896 2 9	565 16 5	1,942 10 2	1,626 14 9	324 6 11	303 0 5	334 13 9
3	Legislature	75 0 0	75 0 0	—	—	52 3 11	52 3 9	—
4	Island Secretary (Commissioner)	168 9 7	161 9 2	1,064 18 4	1,115 19 10	991 3 10	1,405 14 7	634 16 0
5	Federal Contribution	3,572 12 4	3,461 9 11	3,837 14 3	3,732 9 5	2,288 7 9	2,444 16 5	673 15 0
6	Treasury and Customs	1,633 9 7	1,591 13 6	1,917 14 10	1,930 0 10	2,301 12 2	2,399 17 7	554 5 1
7	Audit	22 3 5	24 1 11	—	—	6 0 0	6 0 0	—
8	Port and Marine	1,366 7 11	1,325 15 6	165 10 0	151 5 7	55 5 5	64 9 8	10 17 11
9	Registrar and Provost Marshal	909 1 5	870 0 6	807 16 2	801 17 10	641 3 10	689 3 4	29 2 1
	Magistrates	1,057 16 4	1,083 0 10	1,691 10 11	1,739 17 4	878 10 3	816 19 0	20 13 4
10	Police	3,644 13 6	3,747 7 9	2,881 10 5	2,902 10 6	1,868 7 2	1,803 5 2	1,275 6 3
11	Prisons	2,360 7 9	2,266 7 11	1,188 19 7	1,020 16 6	710 8 5	693 12 10	201 0 11
12	Medical	1,959 15 4	2,126 9 9	1,654 18 4	1,736 10 10	1,367 11 9	1,589 15 11	474 5 10
13	Hospitals	7,014 1 6	7,512 10 0	6,484 15 3	6,561 0 4	2,329 0 5	2,494 12 3	890 18 7
14	Education	3,762 11 1	3,762 18 11	2,382 9 11	2,364 12 10	2,472 16 6	2,532 3 6	804 19 5
15	Ecclesiastical	—	—	256 12 6	256 0 0	—	—	458 15 0
16	Board of Health	2,142 1 2	2,382 1 2	2,996 0 10	2,974 17 4	347 17 8	302 2 11	209 12 7
17	Registration and Vaccination	233 3 10	342 14 7	554 15 0	540 1 10	47 0 0	144 9 3	81 15 8
18	Public Market	—	—	34 15 6	54 0 7	—	—	34 5 2
19	Public Library	—	—	50 0 0	60 0 0	138 4 3	76 15 9	50 0 0
20	Laboratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21	Military	311 15 11	229 6 4	420 12 5	202 7 7	—	—	—
22	Miscellaneous	1,357 10 7	1,522 10 7	1,192 17 0	973 10 1	1,370 13 6	2,071 4 7	314 8 0
23	Post Office	2,201 13 1	2,372 16 0	1,623 8 11	2,142 3 10	1,314 7 10¼	1,391 15 6	281 15 5
	Telegraphs	500 0 0	500 0 0	528 19 3	533 4 10	400 0 0	400 0 0	—
	Telephones	767 0 7	780 4 1	418 10 11	444 8 7	—	567 17 6	—
24	Public Works Department	1,128 9 11	983 18 3	956 11 0	981 7 4	470 0 9	479 10 7	16 0 0
25	" Recurrent	3,507 19 4	3,197 18 9	4,030 6 11	3,700 9 2	2,575 11 1	2,407 4 1	722 9 2
		47,770 15 11	48,008 0 10	42,971 11 7	42,102 16 7	26,383 14 3¼	28,547 16 8	8,843 15 0
	Extraordinary	149 0 4	544 2 0	1,163 2 11	1,610 9 10	1,628 14 6	1,870 19 5	1,468 10 7
	Total	47,919 16 3	48,552 2 10	44,134 13 6	43,713 6 5	28,012 8 9¼	30,418 16 1	10,312 5 7
	Barbuda	594 3 1	440 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	48,513 19 4	48,992 2 10	44,134 13 6	43,713 6 5	28,012 8 9¼	30,418 16 1	10,312 5 7

TABLE I—*cont.*

	Heads of Expenditure.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.		Total Colony.		Increase.	Decrease.
		1902-3.	1901-2.	1902-3.	1901-2.	1902-3.	1902-3.	1902-3.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Charges on Account of Public Debt	579 19 10	—	—	15,271 11 10	14,670 0 7	—	601 11 3
2	Pensions	345 4 1	61 17 2	61 17 8	3,559 10 9	2,902 13 4	—	656 17 5
3	Legislature	—	5 19 6	1 7 8	133 3 5	128 11 5	—	4 12 0
4	Island Secretary (Commissioner)	619 10 4	414 12 11	312 1 11	3,274 0 8	3,614 15 10	340 15 2	—
5	Federal Contribution	637 5 10	164 10 10	117 8 6	10,535 0 2	10,393 10 1	—	141 10 1
6	Treasury and Customs	517 13 6	390 3 6	412 5 11	6,797 5 2	6,851 11 4	54 6 2	—
7	Audit	—	—	—	28 3 5	30 1 11	1 18 6	—
8	Port and Marine	13 4 5	—	—	1,598 1 3	1,554 15 2	—	43 6 1
9	Registrar and Provost Marshal	34 10 1	23 1 4	26 1 9	2,410 4 10	2,421 13 6	11 8 8	—
	Magistrates	12 0 0	18 6 2	18 18 6	3,666 17 0	3,670 15 8	3 18 8	—
10	Police	1,163 14 6	67 15 1	50 16 4	9,737 3 5	9,667 14 3	—	69 9 2
11	Prisons	230 6 7	102 17 7	75 7 6	4,563 14 3	4,286 11 4	—	277 2 11
12	Medical	467 7 0	149 1 10	129 10 10	5,605 13 1	6,049 14 4	414 1 3	—
13	Hospitals	956 12 3	170 0 2	173 19 6	16,888 15 11	17,698 14 4	809 18 5	—
14	Education	810 0 0	135 0 0	134 16 6	9,557 16 11	9,604 11 9	46 14 10	—
15	Ecclesiastical	446 13 1	—	—	715 7 6	702 13 1	—	12 14 5
16	Board of Health	210 11 3	5 0 0	5 0 0	5,700 12 3	5,874 12 8	174 0 5	—
17	Registration and Vaccination	91 17 7	25 18 0	27 2 0	942 12 6	1,146 4 5	203 11 11	—
18	Public Market	37 17 9	—	—	69 0 8	91 18 4	22 17 8	—
19	Public Library	50 0 0	—	—	238 4 3	186 15 9	—	51 8 6
20	Laboratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21	Military	24 8 10	—	—	732 8 4	456 2 9	—	276 5 7
22	Miscellaneous	444 19 8	86 0 11	78 10 1	4,321 10 0	5,090 15 0	769 5 0	—
23	Post Office	448 12 10	50 18 2	115 14 2	5,472 3 5½	6,470 12 4	998 8 10½	—
	Telegraphs	—	—	—	1,428 19 3	1,433 4 10	4 5 7	—
	Telephones	—	—	—	1,185 11 6	1,792 10 2	606 18 8	—
24	Public Works Department	16 0 0	—	—	2,571 1 8	2,460 16 2	—	110 5 6
25	" Recurrent	765 18 9	38 19 8	63 5 2	10,875 6 2	10,135 5 11	—	740 0 3
		8,924 8 2	1,910 2 10	1,804 4 0	127,879 19 7½	129,387 6 3	4,492 9 9½	2,985 3 2
	Extraordinary	992 7 6	13 8 1	50 0 0	4,422 16 5	5,067 18 9	645 2 4	—
	Total	9,916 15 8	1,923 10 11	1,854 4 0	132,302 16 0½	134,455 5 0	5,137 12 1½	2,985 3 2
	Barbuda	—	—	—	594 3 1	440 0 0	—	154 3 1
	Total	9,916 15 8	1,923 10 11	1,854 4 0	132,896 19 1½	134,895 5 0	5137 12 1½	3,139 6 3

Net increase, £1,998 5*s.* 10½*d.*

TABLE II.

A.

General Government of the LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31*st March*, 1903.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Presidencies (Current Accounts)—			Cash		681 15 9
Dominica	510 4 7		Presidencies (Current accounts)—		
Montserrat	1,198 6 6		Antigua	87 4 5	
		1,708 11 1	St. Kitts-Nevis	300 15 3	
Bermuda Money-Order Account ...		621 9 11	Virgin Islands	135 17 11	
Land Assurance Fund		2,000 10 7			523 17 7
Public Officers' Guarantee Fund ...		33 8 6	Money Order Accounts—		
Imperial Government		261 8 11	Barbados	1,278 18 5	
Crown Agents		349 16 4	British Guiana	57 8 6	
			United States	98 3 6	
					1,434 10 5
			Land Assurance Investment Account.		1,800 0 0
			H. A. Tempany		5 0 0
		4,975 5 4	Police Reward Fund		28 12 8
			Drafts and Remittances		240 0 0
			General Account		261 8 11
					4,975 5 4

B.

Presidency of Antigua—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1903.

Liabilities.	Amount. £	s.	d.	Assets.	Amount. £	s.	d.
Deposits on Account Money Orders	263	15	4	Advances on Account of Money Orders	457	6	9
" " Botanic	13	7	0	" Barbuda	252	8	5
" " to Cover Duties	14	6	7	" U. K. Post Office	2	13	0
" " Special Services in Barbuda...	162	9	8	" City Board (Repair of Roads) ...	99	18	6
" " New Issue of Stamps ...	100	0	0	" Quarantine Deposits	0	0	1
" " Revenue Defence Fund ...	21	17	6	" Dr. Oliphant	20	0	0
" " City Fund	17	10	3	" Government Grenada...	1	7	4
" " Prison Officers Fine Fund ...	34	3	0	" St. Vincent	0	17	1
" " Sugar Industry Balance Imperial Grant.	139	11	11	" Central Factories Preliminary Expenses	1	12	6
" " H. F. Holme	0	1	0	Balances due by General Government, Leeward Islands.			
Balances due by General Government, Leeward Islands.	87	14	5				
" " Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis	3	4	8	" " " Dominica	111	9	2
" " Unrepresented Estates Reserve Fund.	26	12	6	" " " Montserrat	9	17	8
" " Deposit Account New Hospital	4,402	12	10	" " " Virgin Islands	76	4	11
" " Unrepresented Estates ...	44	10	4	Treasurer, Cash Balance	8,373	4	1½
" " Escheated " ...	255	13	0	Crown Agents Advance Account	1,000	0	0
" " Bankruptcy " ...	73	9	9	London & Westminster Bank on Deposits ...	1,227	2	1
" " Registrar's unclaimed Balances	13	10	7				
" " Official Receiver Globe Premises	525	0	0				

Presidency of Antigua—Statement of Assets and Liabilities—*cont.*

Liabilities.	Amount.			Assets.	Amount.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
Deposit Account Sale of unclaimed Goods ...	4	14	7				
" " Land Taxes, 1903-4	2,516	12	8				
" " Preparation of Redonda Lease...	6	13	6				
" " Drafts and Remittances ...	1,536	10	0				
" " Loan Works	645	2	11				
	10,909	4	0				
Excess of Assets	724	17	7½				
Total	11,634	1	7½	Excess of Liabilities ...	11,634	1	7½

C.

Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31*st March*, 1903.

Liabilities.		Amount.	Assets.		Amount.
	£ s. d.	£ s d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Deposits—					
To secure Duties	10 19 2		**Cash Account—**		
Receiver of Wrecks	5 5 0		Treasurer		2,036 19 9
Estate of De Geneste	187 12 5		In Colonial Bank at Interest ...		2,000 0 0
Postmaster	268 9 5				
Revenue Defence Fund	77 15 0		**Advances—**		
Provost Marshal	9 1 7		Personal	644 6 2	
Unrepresented Estates	2 5 11		G. P. O. London	0 10 4	
Botanic Department	250 9 7		Government British Guiana... ...	3 10 10	
Planters Loan Fund	550 0 0		Presidencies	3 4 8	
		1,361 18 1			651 12 0
Money Order Accounts—			**Money Order Accounts—**		
United Kingdom	149 15 7		Leeward Islands	161 13 4	
Barbados	1 2 6		Windward Islands	23 16 0	
Jamaica	5 6 0		Trinidad	54 2 2	
		156 4 1	British Guiana	19 16 5	
Balance due to—			Bermuda	964 10 7	
Family Remittances		50 0 0	United States	168 19 6	
Public Works Loan, 1891		1,073 7 2	Canada	7 15 11	
General Government, Leeward Islands	300 15 3				1,400 13 11
Presidencies	13 0 7	313 15 10	Remittances in Transit		258 0 0
Sinking Fund Improvement Basseterre		714 14 5			
Total Liabilities		3,669 19 7			
Excess of Assets		2,677 6 1	Total Assets		6,437 5 8
		6,347 5 8			6,948 5 8

D.

Presidency of Dominica—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1903.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Deposits to be repaid to—					
Sundry Money-Order Accounts	625 0 5		Cash		1,381 7 6½
Registrar and Marshal	23 13 6½		Investments by Crown Agents ...		4,000 0 0
Plaintiffs' Costs Deposit Account	1 19 6		Drafts and Remittances		935 0 9
Postmaster Deposit Account ...	176 18 1		Advances—		
Deposits to secure duties ...	7 13 0		Sundry Money-Order Accounts	1 0 0	
Prison Officers' Fine Fund ...	16 17 10		Other authorised advances ...	40 5 3	
Revenue Defence Fund... ...	226 8 7				41 5 3
Registrar of Shipping (Fees) ...	0 4 0		Balances due by—		
Curator Botanical Station ...	3 4 6		His Majesty's Government ...	13 17 8	
		1,081 19 5½	General Government, Leeward Islands.	535 4 6½	
Balances due to—			Crown Lands Fund	82 9 0	
Other Presidencies—			Other Presidencies—		
Antigua	111 9 2		Virgin Islands	5 7 4	
Montserrat	12 3 5		General Post Office, London ...	2 8 0½	
		123 12 7			639 6 7
		1,205 12 0½			
Excess of Assets...		5,791 8 1			
Total		6,997 0 1½	Total		6,997 0 1½

E.

Presidency of Montserrat—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31*st March*, 1903.

Liabilities.	Amount.			Assets.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Registrar's Deposit Account	0	8	4	British Guiana	3	13	4
Sugar Industry Advance Account	268	12	0	General Government	1,198	6	6
Imperial Hurricane Relief Grant Account ...	225	14	5	St. Kitts-Nevis	10	0	3
Unrepresented Estates Reserve Fund Account ...	3	17	9	Dominica	12	3	5
Provost Marshal's Deposit Account	3	3	11	Reeds Hill Estate	15	6	3
Escheated Estates Account	9	13	6	First Treasury Officer	0	3	0
Savings' Bank	110	2	11	Drafts and Remittances	135	0	0
Antigua	4	3	4	United Kingdom Post Office Account	5	14	1
Deposit to purchase Stamps	100	0	0	Sundry Money Order Accounts	219	3	10
Sundry Money Order Accounts	387	4	4	Cash	124	12	6
Loan to Planters	2,298	5	6	Sundry Borrowers of Loan to Planters	2,298	5	6
Excess of Assets...	611	2	8				
Total	4,022	8	8	Total	4,022	8	8

F.

Presidency of the Virgin Islands—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1903.

Liabilities.	Amount.		Assets.	Amount.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sundry Advances—			Sundry Advances—		
General Government	135 18 9		St. Kitts-Nevis	2 0 4	
Antigua	76 4 11		G. P. O. London	1 11 1	
Dominica	5 7 4		Dr. N. G. Cookman...	36 8 2	
Agricultural Department	14 4 1				39 19 7
		231 15 1	Colonial Bank—		
Sundry Deposits—			Antigua Deposit Account	200 0 0	
Unrepresented Estates Account ...	8 0 9		St. Thomas, Current Account ...	276 6 0	
Provost Marshall's Account ...	1 4 11		Crown Agents	109 5 0	
Agricultural Show Account ...	2 10 8		Treasurer	51 0 10	
Agricultural Department Produce Account.	28 13 7				636 11 10
Government House Purchase Money Deposit Account.	50 0 0		Trinidad Money Order		0 7 9
		90 9 11			
Drafts and Remittances Account ...		4 3 4			
Sundry Money Order Accounts ...		154 11 1			
		480 19 5			
Excess of Assets		195 19 9			
		676 19 2			676 19 2

TABLE III.

TOTAL IMPORTS.

Country whence imported.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	Increase 1902 over 1901.	Decrease 1902 under 1901.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	134,071	148,393	141,131	160,827	165,958	5,131	—
British Colonies	41,308	45,259	55,810	51,441	56,941	5,500	—
United States of America...	113,864	137,224	140,022	137,496	143,521	6,025	—
Other Foreign Countries	10,733	9,236	9,432	8,466	8,107	—	359
Total	299,976	340,112	346,395	358,230	374,527	16,656	359

Net increase in value of Imports in 1902, as compared with 1901, £16,297.

TABLE IV.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTS.

Articles.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	Increase 1902 over 1901.	Decrease 1902 under 1901.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Live Animals	2,425	1,954	1,210	2,108	3,450	1,342	—
Foodstuffs	132,728	141,192	140,507	135,623	136,831	1,208	—
Drinks	9,375	9,629	10,192	9,346	12,423	3,077	—
Narcotics	3,142	3,377	3,181	3,659	3,799	140	—
Raw Materials	8,310	16,029	15,717	17,359	24,064	6,705	—
Manufactured Articles, Textile	62,872	74,876	64,677	86,534	92,365	5,831	—
Do. Metal	13,081	16,994	24,430	21,546	21,180	—	366
Other Manufactures	63,448	74,712	77,319	79,953	79,614	—	339
	295,381	338,763	337,233	356,128	373,720	18,303	705
Coin and Bullion	4,595	1,349	9,162	2,102	801		1,301
Total	299,976	340,112	346,395	358,230	374,527	18,303	2,006

Net increase in 1902—£16,397.

TABLE V.

Summary of Exports.

Countries to which exported.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	Increase 1902 over 1901.	Decrease 1902 under 1901
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	62,563	60,207	61,673	60,374	78,292	17,918	—
British Colonies	28,075	41,722	45,547	48,071	129,611	81,540	—
United States of America...	178,348	234,254	154,121	183,696	92,617	—	91,079
Other Foreign Countries	17,417	15,246	17,679	15,203	17,315	2,112	—
Total	286,403	351,429	279,020	307,344	317,835	101,570	91,079

Net increase in 1902—£10,491.

TABLE VI.

Principal Exports.

Articles of Export.	1898.		1899.		1900.		1901.		1902.		Increase 1902 over 1901.		Decrease 1902 under 1901.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£		£		£		£		£		£
Sugar ... Tons	20,065	174,098	22,815	230,029	15,384	157,737	21,990	198,769	30,339	176,691	8,349	—	—	22,078
Molasses Puns.	4,204	8,595	7,292	20,152	6,142	22,853	7,055	15,808	10,891	12,383	3,836	—	—	2,925
Rum ... Galls.	48,451	1,579	28,721	1,554	15,352	1,003	53,248	2,317	82,296	2,774	29,048	457	—	—
Coffee ... lbs.	21,958	537	16,037	377	5,957	207	5,306	170	4,404	106	—	—	902	64
Cocoa ... lbs.	1,112,862	26,362	868,441	20,372	1,036,173	24,285	976,952	22,898	1,332,024	28,442	355,072	5,544	—	—
Limes and Lime Juice.	—	25,753	—	32,780	—	32,277	—	33,517	—	47,824	—	14,307	—	—
Total ...	—	236,924	—	305,264	—	238,362	—	273,479	—	268,220	—	20,808	—	25,067

TABLE VII.

Summary showing Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared.

—	British.						Foreign.						Steam.	Sailing.	Total.
	Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.			Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.					
	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Total.	Total.	
Antigua	240,234	240,234	480,468	9,784	9,899	19,683	4,662	4,662	9,324	2,944	3,689	6,633	489,792	26,316	516,108
St. Kitts	223,990	223,990	447,980	6,024	5,758	11,782	15,200	15,200	30,400	4,571	4,728	9,299	478,380	21,381	499,461
Nevis	34,309	34,309	68,618	1,181	1,289	2,470	—	—	—	430	273	703	68,618	3,173	71,791
Anguilla	—	—	—	1,432	1,476	2,908	—	—	—	906	906	1,812	—	4,720	4,720
Dominica	239,959	239,959	479,918	3,517	3,557	7,074	3,664	3,664	7,328	389	329	668	487,246	7,742	494,988
Montserrat ...	133,936	133,936	267,872	4,661	4,663	9,324	3,416	3,416	6,832	839	839	1,678	274,704	11,002	285,706
Virgin Islands ...	—	—	—	5,659	5,792	11,451	—	—	—	635	688	1,323	—	12,774	12,774
Total	872,428	872,428	1,744,856	32,258	32,434	64,692	26,942	26,942	53,884	10,664	11,452	22,116	1,798,749	86,808	1,885,548

TABLE VIII.

Hospitals.

Hospitals.	Number in Hospital on 1st January 1902.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua	176	1,498	824	426	—	259
St. Kitts	119	1,076	684	248	55	98
Nevis	24	98	46	20	1	19
Dominica	55	523	386	55	6	64
Montserrat (Chateau)	58	45	17	11	8	11
" (Hospital)	5	42	18	12	5	4
Total... ...	437	3,282	1,975	772	75	455

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
394	Turks and Caicos Islands	1902
395	Seychelles	"
396	Ceylon	"
397	Gold Coast	"
398	Barbados	1902–1903
399	Fiji	1902
400	Lagos	"
401	British Solomon Islands	1902–1903
402	Cocos-Keeling Islands	1903
403	St. Vincent	1902–1903
404	Grenada	1903
405	Southern Nigeria	1902
406	Straits Settlements	"
407	Trinidad and Tobago	1902–1903
408	Basutoland	"
409	Northern Nigeria	1902
410	Malta	1902–1903
411	St. Lucia	1902
412	Mauritius	"
413	British Guiana	1902–1903
—	Bahamas (Printed separately as [Cd. 1985])	1902
414	Jamaica	1902–1903
415	Falkland Islands	1903

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Vegetable and Mineral Products.

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1904.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 445.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1903-4.

(For Report for 1902-3, *see* No. 416.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
March, 1905.

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No. 445.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1902–3, *see* No. 416.)

GOVERNOR SIR C. C. KNOLLYS to MR. LYTTELTON.

Government House,
Antigua,
11th January, 1905.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1903-4, together with the usual Report thereon by the Colonial Secretary.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

C. C. KNOLLYS,
Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1903-1904.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

General Government.

Receipts.

The receipts of the Federal Government for the year 1903-4 amounted to £10,042 (exclusive of an Imperial Grant of £1,338 on account of agriculture) which was made up as follows:—

Contributions from the Presidencies ...	£9,326
Analyst's Fees	11
Miscellaneous Receipts	705
	£10,042

Disbursements.

The payments (exclusive of £1,412, expenditure on account of agriculture), amounted to £9,968.

The above figures show a decrease of £420 in the receipts, and a decrease of £1,082 in disbursements, as compared with the figures for the year 1902-3.

The Presidencies.

Statements showing the revenue and expenditure of each Presidency of the Colony of the Leeward Islands, and giving the increases or decreases, as the case may be, under each head, are appended to this report—Tables I. and II. On reference to these statements it will be seen that there was a net decrease of £4,206 in the revenue, and a net increase of £3,133 in expenditure, as compared with 1902-3.

Statements of the assets and liabilities of the General Government of the Leeward Islands and of the several Presidencies of the Colony are given in Table III.

Revenue.

The total revenue of the Colony for the year was £124,148, as compared with £128,354 for the preceding year, a decrease of £4,206.

Expenditure.

The total expenditure of the Colony for the year was £138,028, as compared with £134,895 for the preceding year, an increase of £3,133.

Customs.

There is a regrettable decrease in the revenue of £1,884 under this head, as compared with last year, as also a decrease of £3,363 on export duties.

Port and Harbour Dues.

The returns under this head show a decrease of £2,044, as compared with last year.

Internal Revenue.

There is a further decrease of £302 in the revenue under this head.

Post Office Receipts.

A satisfactory increase of £2,168 appears under this head.

Expenditure.

The increases in the expenditure amounted to £6,027. The largest increases appear under the following heads:—

Head 1.	Charges on account of Public Debt ...	£301
„ 4.	Administrator	235
„ 8.	Port and Marine	922
„ 11.	Prisons	902
„ 16.	Municipal...	506
„ 22.	Miscellaneous	787
„ 23.	Post Office, Telegraph, &c.	476
	Local Department of Agriculture ...	1,247
		£5,376

Decreases in expenditure are shown under the following heads:—

Head 5. Federal Contribution	£1,068
„ 14. Education	1,810
„ 25. Public Works Recurrent	252
	£3,130

The decrease of £1,810 under Head 14, "Education," is partly due to the expenditure for Skerretts School (formerly charged to this head) being transferred to Head 11, "Prisons." This explains the increase of £902 under the latter head.

The head "Local Department of Agriculture" appears for the first time, and is chiefly made up of the expenditure on account of Skerretts Stock Farm, which was transferred from Head 14, "Education."

(B.) Imperial Grants.

Imperial assistance to the extent of £18,653 14*s.* 10*d.* was afforded to the Colony during the year under review, and is made up as under:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Antigua.						
In aid of Revenue ...	£5,000	0	0			
Botanical Department...	880	0	0			
				£5,880	0	0
St. Kitts-Nevis.						
Botanical Department...	946	10	2			
Sugar Cane Industry ...	7,610	4	8			
				8,556	14	10
Dominica.						
Botanical Department				1,420	0	0
Montserrat.						
In aid of Revenue ...	1,750	0	0			
Botanical Department...	500	0	0			
				2,250	0	0
Virgin Islands.						
Botanical Department				547	0	0
Total				£18,653	14	10

(C.) Changes in Taxation.

No changes of any importance have taken place under this head during the year; slight alterations were made in the Tariff Ordinances.

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies concerned, amounts to £292,662. The following amounts have been paid off during the year:— St. John's Savings Bank Loan, Antigua, £3,840 15*s.* 1*d.*; and Improvement of Basseterre Loan, St. Kitts, £4,700.

The following table gives a list of the loans raised at different times and the amount standing to the credit of their respective sinking funds:—

Loans.	Amount.	Amount to Credit of Sinking Fund.
	£	£
Antigua—		
Immigration...	5,171	4,563
In Aid of Revenue borrowed from St. John's Savings Bank.	8,940	3,841
Wallings Reservoir...	14,000	2,177
Additional Waterworks	12,200	6,552
Public Works and Harbour Improvements.	100,000	16,232
St. Kitts-Nevis—		
Basseterre Protection	3,900	878
Waterworks (Sandy Point and Dieppe Bay).	8,000	1,873
Waterworks, Nevis	8,850	3,369
Public Works	23,000	
Public Works, 1891...	23,500	3,286
Improvement of Basseterre ...	9,000	332
Dominica—		
Public Works and Revenue in Aid	5,000	1,633
Roads and Bridges, 1880 and 1890	30,000	4,600
Roads and Bridges, 1895	30,000	2,707
Montserrat—		
Waterworks, 1883	1,100	279
Waterworks, 1893	10,000	1,098
	292,661	53,420
Less amount repaid	8,540	
	284,121	

(E.) MUNICIPALITIES.

The revenue of the St. John's City Board amounted to £4,182, as compared with £4,156 for last year.

The expenditure for the same period amounted to £4,499, leaving a net deficit of £317 on the year's working.

Great difficulty is being experienced by the Board in collecting the city rate. This rate is levied on all houses in the city of St. John, and the minimum rate is 3*s*. per annum.

The Board receives a Government Grant of £2,100 a year. From this amount should be deducted the sum of £848, which is paid as interest and sinking fund on the Water Works Loans of 1885 and 1890.

A Town Board has recently been started in St. Kitts—the Basseterre Town Board—which has done and is doing very good work. No report on the working of this Board has as yet been furnished.

A Town Board also exists in Roseau, Dominica.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports.

The total value of the imports of the Colony for the calendar year, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £377,700, showing an increase of £3,173, as compared with 1902.

In the Appendix—Table IV.—is given a return showing the total imports for the last five years. This table also shows the increase or decrease in 1903, as compared with the previous year.

The internal trade between the several Presidencies of the Colony amounted to £16,580, as against £23,125 in 1902—a decrease of £6,545.

Table V. of the Appendix gives the aggregate values of the various articles or goods imported during the last five years.

An analysis of the imports into the three classes prescribed for the Board of Trade returns shows that in Class I., food, drink, and narcotics, there was an increase of £5,199; in Class II., raw materials, a decrease of £11,842; and in Class III., manufactured articles, an increase of £11,373.

Exports.

The total value of the exports from the Colony during the year amounted to £311,469, as against £317,835 in 1902—a decrease of £6,366.

Table VI. of the Appendix gives a summary of the exports during the past five years, and shows also the increase or decrease as compared with 1902.

A reference to this table shows increases of £22,464 and £434 to British Colonies and foreign countries (other than the United States of America) respectively, and decreases of £11,114 and £18,150 to the United Kingdom and the United States of America respectively.

Table VII. of the Appendix gives the quantity and value of the principal exports for the last five years.

Sugar.

The output of sugar for 1903 amounted to 25,020 tons, and the total value was returned as £170,695. These figures, compared with those for the preceding year, show a decrease of 5,319 tons in quantity, and £5,996 in value.

Molasses.

The increase in the value of this product is remarkable. The returns for 1903, though showing a decrease of 1,390 puncheons exported, show the very large increase of £20,064 in the value.

Rum.

The export of rum is principally from the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis; this Presidency exported 16,408 gallons out of the total export for the Colony of 16,435.

Coffee.

The total export of coffee amounted to 3,659 lbs., a decrease of 745 lbs. as compared with 1902. Dominica exported 3,135 lbs.

Limes and Lime Juice.

There has been a very large decrease in the exportation of limes and lime juice during the year under review, resulting in a decrease in the value of the exports of £23,216, as compared with the preceding year.

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There is, in Dominica, one sulphur mine at Soufriere, and there are mines containing molybdenum and copper in Virgin Gorda, one of the Virgin Islands group. Phosphates are found in the islands of Redonda and Barbuda.

Manufactures.

Sugar is the principal manufacture of the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis, and in the latter Presidency the manufacture of rum is of some importance.

(C.) Agricultural Industries and Botanic Stations.

The estimated acreage of cultivated land in Antigua is 16,481 acres out of 52,794 acres, in St. Kitts-Nevis (exclusive of Anguilla) 18,268 out of 75,520 acres. In Dominica there are about 177,549 acres of uncultivated land, of which about 80,000 are Crown lands suitable for cultivation.

Sugar constitutes the chief agricultural industry of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Montserrat; the production of lime-juice, essential oil of limes, and cacao are the main industries of Dominica, while considerable quantities of lime-juice are exported from Montserrat.

Energetic steps were taken to secure for Antigua the residue of the Parliamentary Grant for the assistance of the sugar industry in the West Indies. These efforts were successful, and the grants were applied to encouraging the introduction of improved sugar-making machinery by offering monetary grants on condition that the sums granted were spent on improved machinery, together with proportionate and specified amounts on the part of private persons. As a result, the Bendal's Sugar Works have been equipped with new machinery by way of improvement on, or addition to, existing plant; a new and improved mill and engine, a triple-effect evaporator (the first introduced into Antigua), and various other appliances being installed. A still more important result was obtained by the aid of this grant in that all the arrangements were completed for the erection of a new, modern sugar factory to deal with the sugar produced on eight estates; this factory was in course of erection during the period covered by this Report, and was opened in December, 1904.

In Antigua there are established ten, and in St. Kitts nine, local sugar experiment stations, where experiments are being carried on, in order to select and introduce into local cultivation the most productive varieties of sugar cane, and also to ascertain the manurial requirements of the sugar cane under the special conditions prevailing in various localities. The work at these stations is carried on jointly by officers working in connection with the Imperial Department of Agriculture and by the planters. The experiments are followed with great interest; reports of the work done are published annually, and have had an important bearing on the work of the sugar plantations.

The cultivation of new varieties of sugar cane continues to make progress throughout the Colony; as a consequence diseases of sugar cane have occasioned comparatively little loss of late years.

The manurial experiments have also afforded results of importance calculated to lead to economies and precision in working, and thereby to afford substantial monetary savings.

In Antigua there has been maintained in connection with the Botanic Station a small station for the experimental cultivation of various economic plants other than sugar cane; here experiments have been conducted with yams, sweet potatoes, eddoes, guinea corn, corn (maize), beans, cotton, and a variety of other products of interest. Similar work has also been done in connection with the Experiment Station in Montserrat, and a small station of a like nature has been started in St. Kitts.

The cultivation of cotton has attracted much attention during the year. The British Cotton-Growing Association has given valuable assistance in the way of money, machinery, and advice, the energies of the Association being largely directed through the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

A ginnery, with a steam engine, an oil engine, three gins, and a baling press, has been erected in Antigua. A ginnery has been erected in Nevis by private enterprise, assisted by the British Cotton-Growing Association. In St. Kitts the operation of the privately-owned ginnery has been continued. In Montserrat one privately-owned ginnery and two assisted by the British Cotton-Growing Association have been steadily worked.

The cultivation of Sea Island cotton has been widely extended, a considerable acreage being placed under this crop in each island, except Dominica, which is not thought so suitable for the industry. The cultivation promises to be successful, though obviously those embarking in it will have to acquire skill by experience, and some years must elapse before the best results are realised. The industry is likely to be of great importance to Montserrat, Nevis, and Anguilla, where the sugar industry is carried on under difficulties.

The lime industry of Montserrat appears to be fairly and substantially re-established. In Dominica this industry has been making steady progress, though adverse circumstances seriously reduced the output in 1903.

The cultivation of cacao has been steadily extended in Dominica, and is of growing importance to that Presidency. A small quantity has been planted in Nevis and in Montserrat.

Onions continue to be successfully shipped, chiefly from Antigua, though the cultivation of this crop is now being taken up in Montserrat, St. Kitts, Nevis, and the Virgin Islands.

The pineapple industry of Antigua continues to be energetically carried on, considerable shipments being made.

Botanic stations, or their equivalents, are established in every Presidency, and herein are conducted experiments with, and experimental cultivations of, various plants adapted to local conditions, either with the object of improving the cultivation of established kinds, or of introducing improved varieties, or of introducing entirely new plants with the hope of establishing new industries. These stations serve as centres from which economic plants are distributed to local cultivators, who readily avail themselves of the facilities thus offered.

The cultivation of tobacco on an experimental scale has been continued in Antigua and St. Kitts. From results obtained at the latter island, there appears to be reasonable ground to hope for the establishment of a cigar-tobacco industry there in the course of time, as the soil appears very suitable for the cultivation of tobacco of that grade.

Agricultural Shows have been held each year in Antigua and Dominica at the instance, and under the direction, of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. At these shows prizes are awarded by the Department and the local Governments for the best exhibits in each class of a widely comprehensive list, and thus much is done to further the economic industries of the islands.

The West India Bulletin, or Journal of the Imperial Department of Agriculture (quarterly), affords much information concerning the work of the Department in the Leeward Islands and elsewhere. A fortnightly publication of the Department, "The Agricultural News," affords information on current events of agricultural interest. Numerous reports and pamphlets were also issued, all of which publications are full of information to those who are engaged in the industries touched upon.

(D.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

In the Presidency of Dominica several extensive blocks of Crown lands were sold to new settlers possessing a moderate amount of capital, and a large number of small lots were purchased by peasants.

A large area of very fertile land, suitable for almost any sub-tropical product, has been rendered accessible by a trunk road into the interior, and many inducements are offered to settlers.

The value of land varies in accordance with its locality and suitability for sugar cane or other produce. In Dominica land can be purchased at 10*s*. per acre. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane land varies from £4 to £8 per acre.

(E.) SHIPPING.

The total number of steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared in the Colony during the year under review was 1,324 and 8,276 respectively, the total tonnage of the former being 1,811,082 and the latter 80,698 tons.

Table VIII. of the Appendix gives a summary of the tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in each island of the Colony.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Ten Acts were passed by the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands during the year 1903. The most important of these are:—

(1.) No. 4 of 1903. "The Constitution Amendment Act, 1903." This legislation was rendered necessary in consequence of the amalgamation of the offices of Colonial Secretary and Attorney-General. In order to maintain the normal official majority in the General Legislative Council provision is made for the appointment of an official member wherever the duties of any two official members are being discharged by one and the same person.

(2.) No. 6 of 1903, "The Payment of Jurors Act, 1903," which makes provision for the payment of jurors, both special and common, in civil cases.

(3.) No. 10 of 1903, "The Supreme Court Amendment Act, 1903." Several changes were brought about by this Act, the principal being the restoration of the Nevis Circuit Court and of a Court of Appeal, consisting of three instead of two judges.

Fifteen Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of Antigua, the most important being No. 13, "The Rum Distillery Ordinance," providing for the closed vat system for the manufacture of rum.

The Legislative Council of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis passed thirteen Ordinances, Nos. 4 and 5, "The Defence Force" and "The Defence Reserve" Ordinances, being the most important.

Ten Ordinances were passed in Dominica, the most important being No. 4, "The Coasting Trade Ordinance," and Nos. 5 and 6, "The Defence Force" and "The Defence Reserve" Ordinances.

Eleven Ordinances were passed in Montserrat, No. 2 of 1903 providing for the establishment of a Forestry Board, and Nos. 5 and 6, providing for the establishment of Defence and Defence Reserve Forces, being the most important.

The Virgin Islands had six Ordinances made by the Governor; none of these call for special mention.

An Ordinance to regulate the establishment of wireless telegraphy was passed in every Presidency of the Colony, and one was made by the Governor for the Virgin Islands. These Ordinances prohibit the establishment of wireless telegraphy without the sanction of the Governor first had and obtained.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) Primary Education.

The number of scholars on the rolls of the Government and State-aided Primary Schools for the year 1903-4 was 23,952, as compared with 23,079 in the previous year; the average attendance was 10,787, as compared with 10,475 in the previous year.

It is satisfactory to note that there has been an increase both in the numbers on the rolls and in the average attendance.

The islands which show the largest increases are Antigua and Nevis, but there are increases in all the islands.

The new Education Code came into force in September, 1903. By this Code, "Nature Teaching" was made a compulsory subject in all elementary schools. Each school is now supplied with boxes and pots, and the subject is taught practically. School gardens have increased from 3 to 20.

The following table gives the number of scholars on the rolls of the Government and State-aided schools, the average attendance, school fees, Government grants, and voluntary contributions for the last five years:—

—	1899.	1900.	1901–2.	1902–3.	1903–4.
Number on roll	22,529	22,624	20,923	23,079	23,952
Average attendance ...	10,446	9,409	9,657	10,475	10,787
	£	£	£	£	£
School fees	180	129	98	91	99
Government grants... ...	6,139	6,181	6,255	6,347	6,375
Voluntary contributions ...	569	369	686	488	418

Agricultural Instruction.

Lectures on agricultural matters continue to be given to pupils and others by the officers of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and science classes are held for the teachers by the science master of the Antigua Grammar School.

(B.) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The following table gives the particulars of the Secondary Education Schools of the Colony:—

Name.	On Roll.	Average Attendance.	Grant.
			£
Antigua Grammar School	47	45	200
St. Kitts Grammar School	35	33	200
Antigua Girls' High School	21	19·75	100
Dominica Grammar School	17	15·3	252
Spring Gardens Female Training College (Dominica).	13	13	150

(C.) INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL, OR AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

The number of boys at Skerretts Training School in Antigua at the beginning of the year was 95; 18 were received during the year, and 25 were discharged, leaving a total of 88 in the school on the 31st March, 1904. This number was made up as follows: Antigua 59, St. Kitts 19, Nevis 3, Dominica 3, Montserrat 2, Anguilla 1, and the Virgin Islands 1.

There were only 45 cases of malarial fever amongst the boys, as compared with 194 cases in 1902, and 201 in the previous year. The filling up and draining of stagnant pools of water and of a pond near the school have no doubt had a great deal to do with the improvement in this respect, but throughout the island the decrease in malarial fever has of late been marked. The scanty rainfall has deprived the mosquito of a great many favourite breeding grounds.

Stock Farm.

The farm attached to the school requires re-stocking, and the pastures need rest.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

At the beginning of the year 1903 there were 442 patients in the hospitals of this Colony. 3,546 were admitted during the year and 2,948 were discharged (2,073 as cured, 780 as relieved, and 95 as not much improved), leaving 453 in the hospitals at the close of the year.

There were 587 deaths during the year, as compared with 455 in the previous year; of this number 364, or 80 per cent., died in the hospital in Antigua.

In a large number of cases patients are brought to hospital in an almost dying condition, and others suffering from diseases in an advanced stage. Frequently the only reason why admission is sought is that the relatives may save themselves funeral expenses. (*See* Table IX. of Appendix.)

(B.) Lunatic Asylums.

The two lunatic asylums in Antigua are at Rat Island and at the buildings formerly used as the Poor House. The lunatics from the Ridge were transferred to these buildings on the 2nd July, 1903.

The number of lunatics in both asylums at the beginning of the year numbered 116; during the year 88 were admitted, 76 were discharged, and 15 died, leaving 113 at the close of the year.

(C.) Leper Asylums.

There are three leper asylums in the Colony. Two are in Antigua (one at Rat Island for males, and the other at Keeling's Point, on the opposite side of the harbour of St. John's, for females), and one in St. Kitts.

Antigua.—There were 40 lepers in the asylums at the beginning of the year. One was discharged, and nine died. There were no fresh admissions.

The maintenance of two separate asylums on either side of the harbour entails additional expense, but the limited accommodation available at Rat Island rendered it difficult to prevent intercourse between the sexes, and the question of providing for cases of healthy children born from leper parents was one that was always likely to arise.

St. Kitts.—There were 71 lepers in the asylum at the beginning of the year; one was admitted and 11 died during the year.

(D.) Savings Banks.

The number of depositors, and the amount to their credit, on the 31st of December, 1903, are given in the table below:—

Place.	No.	Amount.
		£
Antigua	1,633	40,032
St. Kitts	411	9,515
Nevis	57	2,262
Dominica	440	7,922
Montserrat	190	4,226
	2,731	£63,957

The following table shows the number of depositors, the amounts deposited and withdrawn, in the Colony for the last five years: —

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Deposited.	Withdrawn.
		£	£
1899	2,644	25,355	18,084
1900	2,429	23,586	23,763
1901	2,516	23,669	21,330
1902	2,857	21,560	22,719
1903	2,731	21,443	22,252

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Crime.

At the Circuit Courts there were 50 convictions.

In the Magistrates' Courts 6,650 persons were convicted; of this total 1,765 were for offences against the person, 1,636 for offences against Revenue Laws, &c., 490 for offences against property, and 418 for prædial larceny, as against 254 in 1902, and 395 in the previous year.

(B.) Police.

The Leeward Islands Police Force consisted, on the 31st March, 1904, of 1 inspector-general, 3 inspectors, 1 sub-inspector, 2 sergeant-majors, and 180 other non-commissioned officers and men.

The men are armed with the Martini-Enfield rifle, and are a smart and well-set-up body.

(C.) PRISONS.

The prison in Antigua is the central one for the Colony, and to it are sent from the other Presidencies prisoners whose sentences exceed 6 months (in Montserrat, 1 month).

The total number of prisoners admitted from Antigua during the year amounted to 445, as against 403 in the previous year; 30 were received from St. Kitts, 9 from Dominica, and one each from Montserrat and the Virgin Islands.

The number of committals to prison for the whole Colony numbered 1,611, as against 1,402 in the previous year.

The following table shows the number of prisoners sent to each prison in the several Presidencies of the Colony:—

Presidency.	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.	Total.
Antigua	238	207	—	445
St. Kitts	339	354	13	706
Dominica	146	158	10	314
Montserrat...	78	44	—	122
Virgin Islands	15	8	1	24
Total	816	771	24	1,611

Employment of Prisoners.

The prisoners are employed in cooking, baking bread for the other Government institutions, making and mending prison clothing and bedding, washing, cleaning, and other miscellaneous labour. A good deal of stone-breaking and quarrying is also done.

It is somewhat difficult to find suitable employment for the female prisoners, who, accustomed to the hardest of work outside, find prison life little more than dull.

The Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, which was formed in 1902, has done good work, but, of course, it is by no means as difficult as it is in England, for instance, for the ordinary prisoner to obtain suitable employment on his discharge.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

A census is taken every ten years; the last census was taken in 1901, when the total population of the Colony was 127,434.

(B.) BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES.

There were 4,867 births and 3,582 deaths during the year. Of the births, 1,900 were legitimate, and 2,967 illegitimate.

The percentage of illegitimate births (60·96) is below that of last year, when it stood at 61·5, or 0·2 per cent. above the average for the last five years. The negro is still non-moral, but crowded huts and an enforced absence of many of the decencies of life do not conduce to morality.

There was an increase of 22 in the births, and an increase of 233 in the deaths, as compared with last year.

(C.) HEALTH.

The general health of the Colony was satisfactory. There have been no epidemics of a serious nature, and the large number of deaths is attributable to the poverty which exists in some of the islands (especially in Antigua, where the deaths in the hospital alone numbered 364).

(D.) CLIMATE.

Rainfall.

The average rainfall on 68 stations in Antigua was 43·68 inches, as against 58·80 in the previous year.

The rainfall was 2·65 inches below the average rainfall for the past 30 years.

No returns of the rainfall in St. Kitts have been furnished this year. The United States Weather Bureau, from which source this information was obtained last year, only kept its office open from the 9th July to the 15th November, 1903, viz., during the hurricane season.

In Dominica the rainfall is abundant; at two stations, Melville Hall and Morne Park, the rainfall recorded was 251·56 inches in each case.

In Montserrat, the greatest rainfall was recorded at Olveston Botanic Station, where the rainfall measured 70·57 inches.

Temperature.

The highest temperature recorded in Antigua was 87°, and the lowest 62°; the mean temperature for the year was 80·8 at 9 a.m. and 81·5 at 3 p.m.

In Montserrat, the highest temperature was 94°, and the lowest 65°.

Wind.

The prevailing direction of the wind is East.

The greatest number of miles run in 24 hours was 425 miles, and was recorded on the 8th August, 1903, in Antigua.

Four earthquakes occurred during the year under report.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

(A.) POST OFFICE.

Receipts and Expenditure.

The following tables show the revenue and expenditure for postal services for the last five years:—

Receipts.

Year.	Sale of Stamps, &c.	Commission on Money Orders.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1899	4,298	573	29	4,900
1900	3,162	559	50	3,771
1901–2 ...	3,454	507	46	4,007
1902–3 ...	5,255	406	48	5,799
1903–4 ...	7,196	515	51	7,762

Expenditure.

Year.	Salaries, &c.	Conveyance of Mails.	Total.
	£	£	£
1899	3,288	2,263	5,551
1900	3,035	2,263	5,298
1901-2	2,890	2,563	5,453
1902-3	2,672	2,734	5,406
1903-4	4,093	2,742	6,835

The receipts have been increasing since the year 1900, and, as compared with the previous year, show an increase of £1,963.

The expenditure has been increasing steadily, and shows an increase of £1,429, as compared with last year. The increases in the receipts and expenditure may be accounted for to a large extent by the recent issue of Presidential stamps in each island of the Colony.

The net profit on the working for the year was £926.

Correspondence.

The number of letters and cards received at and despatched from the several Post Offices in the Colony during the year amounted to 604,573, as against 613,761 in the previous year. Books and papers numbered 196,667, as against 173,447 in 1902.

The parcels post returns show an increase of 291 in the number of parcels received and despatched, the total for the year amounting to 8,998.

The number of registered letters received and despatched has increased considerably, and totalled 17,839 for 1903, which, when compared with last year, shows an increase of 1,909.

Money Orders.

The total amount of money orders issued in the Colony was £22,620, as against £22,444 in the previous year.

The total amount of money orders paid in the Colony was £22,435, as against £22,101.

(B.) TELEGRAPHS.

A subsidy of £1,400 is paid to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company. Bulletins containing news of general information are posted up daily at the Company's stations in the several Presidencies (Montserrat and the Virgin Islands excepted).

(C.) TELEPHONES.

There are telephone services in the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica, which are managed as Government concerns.

In Antigua, there are 146 instruments in use, and 260 miles of wire; in St. Kitts, 84 instruments and 251 miles of wire; and in Dominica, 45 instruments and 130 miles of wire.

Receipts and Expenditure.

The receipts in the three Presidencies for the year amounted to £1,266, and the expenditure to £1,685, showing a net loss of £419 on the year's working.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES.

Volunteer Defence Forces are in existence in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts. Ordinances providing for the establishment of defence forces have been passed in Dominica and Montserrat, but up to the 31st December, 1903, no force had been organized in either of these Presidencies.

X.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Sir Gerald Strickland, K.C.M.G., was on leave of absence from the 16th July to the 15th October, 1903.

The Government of the Leeward Islands was administered during this period by His Honour Charles T. Cox, C.M.G., Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis.

The Honourable F. S. Wigley acted as Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis.

XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE PRESIDENCIES.

ANTIGUA.

The financial condition of this Presidency still continues to cause grave concern. Its principal agricultural industry is, of course, sugar, and only the most economically worked estates can pay under present conditions. The island has a most valuable asset in its excellent labour supply, and as the Brussels Sugar Convention must place prices on a much more stable basis than was possible under bounties and cartels, the results of the workings of the new 3,000-ton sugar factory at Gunthorpes are awaited with the greatest interest and, indeed, anxiety. The factory has had a fair field given it, but time alone can show if its products are to hold their own in the markets of the world. If they do, up-to-date machinery will quickly take the place of what someone has termed the "mechanical menageries" now existing on many estates, and financial equilibrium will be restored. A terrible drag on the finances is the £7,287 10*s.* 8*d.* being paid as interest and sinking funds on loans, whose expenditure in some cases has been almost entirely unproductive. It is hardly likely that cotton planting will increase to any extent in Antigua while there is hope of sugar being a paying industry. The cotton grown is, however, of excellent quality.

BARBUDA.

This dependency of Antigua lies about 25 miles due north. Excellent deer shooting may be had there, and feathered game of various kinds is abundant. A strong effort is being made to make the island pay as a Government stock farm. It is admirably adapted for this purpose. Its 62 square miles contain much excellent pasturage, and there are 800 acres of walled enclosures, with drinking pens and everything complete for the herding and capture of stock.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

There is little to record of this Presidency. It emerged last year from dependence on the Imperial Government, and there would seem no reason why financial equilibrium should not for the future be maintained. Now that the pauperising effect of doles has been removed, a healthy interest in Government and its measures is apparent. Nevis has taken very kindly to cotton-growing, and the arrangements whereby peasants' canes are now bought on a sliding scale, with a minimum price of 6*s.* per ton, has been productive of excellent results. The scheme has engendered confidence in the Government, and affords the peasant a ready and sure market for the products of the cultivation in which he takes most pleasure.

DOMINICA.

The finances of this Presidency are eminently satisfactory. In spite of various adverse circumstances which marked the course of 1903, and the temporary check experienced by two principal products, limes and cocoa, the revenue for the financial year considerably exceeded the estimate.

The disease which affected the lime trees during the dry season of 1903 was a severe trial to the planters, and caused a very serious diminution of the crop. Thanks, however, to energetic measures that were taken for the eradication of the pest, to improved cultural methods, and to the abundant rains which have characterised the latter part of the year, the lime plantations appear to have almost completely recovered from the disease that was damaging them. The severe gale, which swept over the southern half of the island on the 8th of August, was also a very serious blow to planters, and much accentuated the loss caused by the lime-blight. The cocoa plantations suffered considerably from loss of blossom, and the crop fell short by nearly 400,000 lbs. Much damage was done to banana and to fruit trees in general, and the exports in this direction were also much decreased.

Two such severe misfortunes in one year might, under other circumstances, have seriously impaired the progress of a West

Indian community, but it speaks volumes for the recuperative power of the island and for the energy of the planters to find that the check was only of a very temporary character, and that all outward signs of prosperity have barely been affected. The effects of the gale have already practically disappeared, and cultivation is being steadily increased all over the island.

The expenditure during the year, on ordinary and recurrent services but slightly exceeded the estimate. The damage done to roads by the gale and the abnormally heavy rains in August and September necessitated an exceptionally large expenditure. Though most of the highways may be considered to be in fair condition, much still remains to be done for the improvement of second and third class roads, and it is hoped that means will be found to carry out the necessary work.

In view of the anxiety caused by the adversities which marked the year 1903, and the effect which they might be expected to have on the public finances, it was deemed prudent to postpone temporarily the execution of some of the public works which were anticipated twelve months ago. Without trenching, however, on invested surplus funds, a number of public improvements and conveniences were carried out during the year. The telephone system was largely extended, and no less than 75 miles of wire were added to it. The line has been completed as far as Marigot, a distance of 52 miles from Roseau, and the planters in the northern districts are thus placed in instantaneous communication with the chief shipping port of the island. The extension of the system to the Windward district has been undertaken.

A handsome two-span iron bridge was erected over the Check Hall river. Large and commodious offices have been built for the Colonial Engineer, and various public buildings have been improved. Nearly all the works above mentioned have been paid for out of the margin between revenue and expenditure.

The sale of Crown lands continues satisfactorily, and a number of new settlers possessing moderate capital have been attracted to the island. Satisfactory progress has been made with the delimitation of the Crown land boundaries, and a large number of squatters have been required to purchase the holdings which they have been illegally occupying. The new road up to the Layou Valley is being gradually extended at the cost of the Crown land funds, and further progress will be made in that direction as the demand for land arises.

It is a matter for congratulation that one of the chief natural products of the island is now being turned to advantage. The American Company that is exporting sulphur from the Soufriere has commenced operations under very favourable conditions, and the output of this product may be expected to assume considerable proportions.

The organisation of a Volunteer Fire Brigade in the town of Roseau may be considered among the items of progress that marked 1903. The corps has been equipped in a serviceable manner, and will, doubtless, render excellent service when the necessity arises.

MONTSERRAT.

In spite of the encouragement given in the shape of an Imperial Grant of £600 to the sugar industry, several of the principal estates were planted almost exclusively in cotton, and 35,657 lbs. of cotton, representing £1,486 in value, were shipped. Great disappointment and loss were experienced by the cotton-growers owing to the appearance of insect pests and fungoid disease, which seriously affected the cultivation in all parts of the island. Active measures were, however, taken on the advice of Mr. Ballou, the Entomologist of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and it is hoped that they will be effectual.

The purchase of papaw milk in the island gave opportune employment and wages to many of the labourers, and the exports of the papaw are valued at £2,000. Unfortunately, the market for this product is quickly overstocked, and the industry is at present practically at a standstill.

The fruit and onion industries, which should otherwise be most promising, are crippled by the absence of telegraphic communication. It is impossible to encourage and develope minor industries under the circumstances.

Among the public works carried out during the year were the following:—

(1.) Harris Road was completed, thus giving to the Windward district a driving road of easy gradient to town.

(2.) Trant's Bridge was practically rebuilt.

(3.) An operating room was added to the hospital.

(4.) Between two and three acres were purchased, enclosed, and laid out as a public cemetery for Harris Village.

Fortunately, the island escaped any serious visitation during the year, but, on several occasions, exceptionally heavy rains fell, causing landslips and the ghauts to be in flood and doing much damage to the roads.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The year was a fairly prosperous one for the Virgin Islands. Parts of the Presidency, however, Anegada and Jost Van Dykes, suffered severely from drought, and a considerable percentage of the stock in the former place died.

The Virgin Islands labourers, also, who are accustomed to work at San Pedro de Macoris, at the sugar estates there, returned to their homes with smaller savings than usual, as their work was much interfered with by the revolution in Santo Domingo.

The revenue returns show satisfactory increases, viz.:—Import Duties (General), 21 per cent.; Import Duties (Alcoholic Liquors), 68 per cent.; Boat Licences, 2 per cent.; Land Tax, 12 per cent.; House Tax, 9 per cent.; Horse and Dog Licences, 30 per cent.

The increase received from the import duty on alcoholic liquors was most marked. This was, however, partly due to failure of the local sugar crop, less rum being made in the islands than usual.

The total revenue for the year showed an increase of £218, in spite of a diminution of £59 from the sale of stamps.

The expenditure, unfortunately, shows a still greater increase of £320 17*s.* 6*d.* Head 4, Commissioner, shows an addition of nearly £150, the amount of Mr. Commissioner Cookman's salary while on leave.

The other chief increases under ordinary expenditure are Treasury and Customs, of which £120 is due to the re-organization of the preventive service and police.

The exceptional expenditure included £29 13*s.* 2*d.* for the necessary rebuilding of the wharf at Road Town, £79 17*s.* 2*d.* for coppering and other extensive repairs of the revenue cutter, "Lady Constance," £5 16*s.* 10*d.* for expenses in connection with a report on the Virgin Gorda mines, and the amount of £48 for the survey of Virgin Gorda, the Government being liable through the default of a private individual.

The total revenue was £2,166 18*s.* 7*d.*, and the expenditure £2,342 1*s.* 11*d.*, showing a deficit of £175 3*s.* 4*d.*

The vital statistics for the year are satisfactory:—

Births	191	are	38·92	per mille.
Deaths	78	„	15·89	„ „

The death-rate of young children is especially low, milk and fish are abundant, there is no struggle for existence, and the unfortunate massacre of the innocents, which is such a marked feature in some parts of the West Indies, is thus happily avoided.

At the same time, there is much preventible disease among the inhabitants, phthisis being prevalent, due to their hatred of ventilation and the insanitary condition of the labourers' lives in Santo Domingo. Many labourers also contract the disease while working as stokers on board steamers and on the coal wharves of St. Thomas.

The great bulk of the exports, no less than 97 per cent., are to the Danish West Indies; 1,062 head of cattle were shipped to the butchers in St. Thomas, and, as they are dependent on the shipping of the port, the market is a very uncertain one and the animals are frequently sold at a great sacrifice, as the risk is too great for the unfortunate owners to return with them to the Virgin Islands against the prevailing head wind.

A cotton gin was sent out by the British Cotton-Growing Association during the year.

E. ST. JOHN BRANCH,
Colonial Secretary,
Leeward Islands.

28th December, 1904.

TABLE I.

Comparative Statement of the Expenditure in each Presidency of the Colony in the Years 1902–3 *and* 1903–4.

	Heads of Expenditure.	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Montserrat.
		1902-3.	1903-4.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1902-3.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Charges on Account of Public Debt	7,122 9 0	7,271 8 10	3,556 9 8	3,726 9 8	3,411 2 1	3,375 0 0	579 19 10
2	Pensions	565 16 5	711 0 6	1,626 14 9	1,523 12 10	303 0 5	310 16 11	345 4 1
3	Legislature	75 0 0	75 0 0	—	—	52 3 9	54 17 9	—
4	Island Secretary (Commissioner)	161 9 2	177 9 0	1,115 19 10	1,161 5 11	1,405 14 7	1,425 8 7	619 10 4
5	Federal Contribution	3,461 9 11	3,082 6 0	3,732 9 5	3,326 16 1	2,444 16 5	2,252 11 5	637 5 10
6	Treasury and Customs	1,591 13 6	1,555 11 3	1,930 0 10	1,918 5 6	2,399 17 7	2,404 15 1	517 13 6
7	Audit	24 1 11	25 11 2	—	—	6 0 0	6 0 0	—
8	Port and Marine	1,325 15 6	2,061 19 8	151 5 7	132 5 2	64 8 9	274 5 9	13 4 5
9	Registrar and Provost Marshal	870 0 6	778 3 9	801 17 10	776 2 4	689 3 4	618 19 1	34 10 1
	Magistrates	1,083 0 0	932 3 8	1,739 17 4	1,726 19 1	816 19 0	827 17 3	12 0 0
10	Police	3,747 7 9	3,650 8 5	2,902 10 6	2,847 5 5	1,803 5 2	1,908 18 8	1,163 14 6
11	Prisons	2,266 7 11	3,066 14 11	1,020 16 6	1,109 1 10	693 12 10	793 19 6	230 6 7
12	Medical	2,126 9 9	2,037 11 10	1,736 10 10	1,849 2 5	1,589 15 11	1,745 11 7	467 7 0
13	Hospitals..	7,512 10 9	7,379 13 9	6,561 0 4	6,828 6 5	2,494 12 3	2,600 5 0	956 12 3
14	Education	3,762 18 11	1,866 2 5	2,364 12 10	2,428 13 0	2,532 3 6	2,550 12 2	810 0 0
15	Ecclesiastical	—	—	256 0 0	256 0 0	—	—	446 13 1
16	Board of Health	2,382 1 2	2,748 5 1	2,974 17 4	3,130 18 8	302 2 11	259 18 9	210 11 3
17	Registration and Vaccination	342 14 7	277 5 6	540 1 10	574 18 9	144 9 3	113 18 8	91 17 7
18	Public Market	—	—	54 0 7	37 18 10	—	—	37 17 9
19	Public Library..	—	—	60 0 0	60 0 0	76 15 9	75 0 0	50 0 0
20	Laboratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21	Military	229 6 4	334 0 6	202 7 7	209 13 2	—	—	24 8 10
22	Miscellaneous	1,522 10 7	1,398 0 11	973 10 1	2,056 8 7	2,071 4 7	2,048 7 0	444 19 8
23	Post Office	2,372 16 0	2,461 5 9½	2,142 3 10	1,481 3 4	1,391 15 6	1,568 17 3	448 12 10
	Telegraphs	500 0 0	500 0 0	533 4 10	527 4 6	400 0 0	400 0 0	—
	Telephones	780 4 1	720 7 0	444 8 7	466 4 10	567 17 6	934 7 2	—
24	Public Works Department..	983 18 3	1,022 5 0	981 7 4	1,007 0 2	479 10 7	563 11 0	16 0 0
25	„ Recurrent	3,197 18 9	3,242 3 5	3,700 9 2	3,759 17 1	2,407 4 1	2,114 10 9	765 18 9
	Local Department of Agriculture	—	1,171 1 10	—	—	—	—	—
	Forestry Department..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		48,008 0 10	48,546 0 2½	42,102 16 7	42,921 13 7	28,547 16 8	29,228 9 7	8,924 8 2
	Public Works Extraordinary	544 2 0	849 15 5	1,610 9 10	1,860 9 9	1,870 19 5	2,102 12 2	992 7 6
	Total	48,552 2 10	49,395 15 7½	43,713 6 5	44,782 3 4	30,418 16 1	31,331 1 9	9,916 15 8
	Barbuda	440 0 0	813 7 6	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	48,992 2 10	50,209 3 1½	43,713 6 5	44,782 3 4	30,418 16 1	31,331 1 9	9,916 15 8

TABLE I—*cont.*

	Heads of Expenditure.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.		Total Colony.		Increase.	Decrease.
		1903–4.	1902–3.	1903–4.	1902–3.	1903–4.	1903–4.	1903–4.
		£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1	Charges on Account of Public Debt	599 19 10	—	—	14,670 0 7	14,972 18 4	302 17 9	—
2	Pensions	327 5 4	61 17 8	61 17 8	2,902 13 4	2,934 13 3	31 19 11	—
3	Legislature	—	1 7 8	—	128 11 5	129 17 9	1 6 4	—
4	Island Secretary (Commissioner)	626 13 10	312 1 11	459 0 10	3,614 15 10	3,849 18 2	235 2 4	—
5	Federal Contribution	561 11 3	117 8 6	102 10 8	10,393 10 1	9,325 15 5	—	1,067 14 8
6	Treasury and Customs	543 0 9	412 5 11	568 7 3	6,851 11 4	6,989 19 10	138 8 6	—
7	Audit	—	—	—	30 1 11	31 11 2	1 9 3	—
8	Port and Marine	8 10 9	—	—	1,554 15 2	2,477 1 4	922 6 2	—
9	Registrar and Provost Marshal	39 3 5	26 1 9	35 1 10	2,421 13 6	2,247 10 5	—	174 3 1
	Magistrates	11 9 8	18 18 6	18 7 6	3,670 15 8	3,516 17 2	—	153 18 6
10	Police	1,078 11 4	50 16 4	84 4 9	9,667 14 3	9,569 8 7	—	98 5 8
11	Prisons	127 2 1	75 7 6	92 1 8	4,286 11 4	5,189 0 0	902 8 8	—
12	Medical	427 10 1	129 10 10	124 10 2	6,049 14 4	6,184 6 1	134 11 9	—
13	Hospitals	903 15 6	173 19 6	204 11 9	17,698 14 4	17,916 12 5	217 18 1	—
14	Education	814 14 11	134 16 6	134 3 7	9,604 11 9	7,794 6 1	—	1,810 5 8
15	Ecclesiastical	424 7 10	—	—	702 13 1	680 7 10	—	22 5 3
16	Board of Health	233 18 5	5 0 0	8 9 0	5,874 12 8	6,381 9 11	506 17 3	—
17	Registration and Vaccination	95 5 4	27 2 0	26 14 5	1,146 4 5	1,088 2 8	—	58 1 9
18	Public Market	32 11 2	—	—	91 18 4	70 10 0	—	21 8 4
19	Public Library	50 0 0	—	—	186 15 9	185 0 0	—	1 15 9
20	Laboratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21	Military	31 9 10	—	—	456 2 9	575 0 6	119 0 9	—
22	Miscellaneous	290 11 8	78 10 1	84 16 6	5,090 15 0	5,878 4 8	787 9 8	—
23	Post Office	743 5 4	115 14 2	81 9 3	6,470 12 4	6,336 1 2¼	—	134 11 2¼
	Telegraphs	—	—	—	1,433 4 10	1,427 4 6	—	6 0 4
	Telephones	—	—	—	1,792 10 2	2,120 19 0	328 8 10	—
24	Public Works Department..	15 14 4	—	—	2,460 16 2	2,608 10 6	147 14 4	—
25	" Recurrent	727 12 7	63 5 2	38 14 8	10,135 5 11	9,882 18 6	—	252 7 5
	Local Department of Agriculture	75 11 5	—	—	—	1,246 13 3	1,246 13 3	—
	Forestry Department	2 9 6	—	—	—	2 9 6	2 9 6	—
		8,789 16 8	1,804 4 0	1,125 1 6	129,387 6 3	131,613 11 0½	6,027 2 4	3,800 17 7½
	Public Works Extraordinary	571 17 9	50 0 0	217 0 5	5,067 18 9	5,601 15 6	533 16 9	—
	Total	9,361 14 5	1,854 4 0	2,342 1 11	134,455 5 0	137,215 6 6½	6,560 19 1	3,800 17 7½
	Barbuda	—	—	—	440 0 0	813 7 6	373 7 6	—
	Total	9,361 14 5	1,854 4 0	2,342 1 11	134,895 5 0	138,028 14 0½	6,934 6 7	3,800 17 7½

Net increase, £3,133 9*s.* 0½*d.*

TABLE II.

Comparative Statement of Revenue collected in each Presidency of the Colony in the Years 1902-3 *and* 1903-4.

Heads of Revenue.	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Montserrat.
	1902–3.	1903–4.	1902–3.	1903-4.	1902–3.	1903–4.	1902–3.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Customs—							
Import Duties on other than alcoholic liquors.	20,803 8 10	19,052 7 0	18,652 12 3	17,310 8 0	12,550 9 7	12,761 19 0	2,744 10 9
Import Duties on alcoholic liquor	2,898 5 8	3,135 3 6	3,387 18 4	3,305 0 0	1,251 2 6	1,399 0 10	1,443 8 6
Export Duty	—	—	2,915 19 9	215 16 5	2,089 10 4	1,414 10 10	—
	23,701 14 6	22,187 10 6	24,956 10 4	20,831 4 5	15,891 2 5	15,575 10 8	4,187 19 3
Ports Harbour Dues, &c.	3,338 7 0	2,914 9 1	3,967 3 6	2,422 4 11	2,071 18 4	2,025 11 8	234 7 1
Internal Revenue—							
Excise	3,777 8 2	3,512 1 11	4,041 0 5	3,645 4 7	4,677 19 9	4,675 2 3	23 17 7
Taxes	4,382 17 7	3,968 6 1	1,743 18 1	2,422 14 3	3,114 9 8½	3,226 1 9	780 2 6
Licences	1,395 7 10	1,359 0 8	2,047 14 0	2,161 4 0	1,785 6 11	1,863 1 11	296 17 0
Rates	—	—	382 7 4	406 17 8	72 2 0	70 14 0	60 17 11
Miscellaneous	353 17 10	302 11 5	454 16 10	307 19 6	656 2 9	553 4 3	86 2 3
	9,909 11 5	9,142 0 1	8,669 16 8	8,944 0 0	10,306 1 1½	10,388 4 2	1,247 17 3
Fees of Court, &c.	5,911 2 5	6,009 15 0	1,188 17 7	2,119 8 8	1,257 17 8½	1,279 4 1½	260 11 2
Municipal Rates and Taxes ...	—	—	1,322 1 4	1,298 6 6	—	—	—
Post Office, &c.	3,071 15 6	2,920 6 4½	2,079 7 3	2,751 13 0	1,054 14 7½	1,949 4 6	353 15 5
Rents	102 7 11	82 9 9	110 11 8	314 2 3	84 18 9	58 18 0	2 11 0
Interest	19 9 0	86 19 7	—	163 9 3	144 8 4	137 10 9	—
Miscellaneous	340 12 11	468 5 8	478 6 1	248 9 11	63 13 9	29 3 6½	2 9 5
Land Sales	—	—	—	33 11 3	170 0 0	—	4 0 0
	46,395 0 8	43,811 16 0½	42,772 14 5	39,126 10 2	31,044 15 0½	31,443 7 5	6,293 10 7

TABLE II—*cont.*

Heads of Revenue.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.		Total for Colony.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1903–4.	1902–3.	1903–4.	1902–3.	1903–4	1902–3.	1902–3.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs—							
Import Duties on other than alcoholic liquors.	3,250 1 8	391 15 6	496 16 9	55,142 16 11	52,871 12 5	—	2,271 4 6
Import Duties on alcoholic liquor	1,463 13 11	30 0 2	95 1 0	9,010 15 2	9,397 19 3	387 4 1	—
Export Duty	—	398 17 10	410 18 2	5,404 7 11	2,041 5 5	—	3,363 2 6
	4,713 15 7	820 13 6	1,002 15 11	69,558 0 0	64,310 17 1	—	—
Ports Harbour Dues, &c.	261 18 9	37 17 2	41 1 7	9,649 13 1	7,605 6 0	—	2,044 7 1
Internal Revenue—							
Excise	—	—	—	12,520 5 11	11,832 8 9	—	687 17 2
Taxes	732 18 10	332 15 5	369 19 3	10,354 3 3½	10,720 0 2	365 16 10½	—
Licences	327 4 0	197 3 3	216 4 8	5,722 9 0	5,926 15 3	204 6 3	—
Rates	74 6 10	—	—	515 7 3	551 18 6	36 11 3	—
Miscellaneous	63 10 3	26 13 7	129 2 0	1,577 13 3	1,356 7 5	—	221 5 10
	1,197 19 11	556 12 3	715 5 11	30,689 18 8½	30,387 10 1	—	—
Fees of Court, &c.	277 10 7	106 11 2	129 11 5	8,725 0 0½	9,815 9 9½	1,090 9 9	—
Municipal Rates and Taxes ...	—	—	—	1,322 1 4	1,298 6 6	—	23 14 10
Post Office, &c.	1,175 19 10	319 14 10	250 6 10	6,879 7 7½	9,047 10 6½	2,168 2 11	—
Rents	2 5 0	0 4 0	0 18 0	300 13 4	458 13 0	157 19 8	—
Interest	—	4 10 0	9 0 0	168 7 4	396 19 7	228 12 3	—
Miscellaneous	29 18 6	1 0 1	17 18 11	886 2 3	793 16 6½	—	92 5 8½
Land Sales	—	1 0 0	—	175 0 0	33 11 3	—	141 8 9
	7,599 8 2	1,848 3 0	2,166 18 7	128,354 3 8½	124,148 0 4½	4,639 3 0½	8,845 6 4½

Net decrease £4,206 3*s.* 4*d.*

TABLE III.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March, 1904.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Money Order Accounts—			Cash—		
Canada	145 9 9		Treasurer	701 3 7	
Bermuda	965 10 6	1,111 0 3	Crown Agents...	310 13 8	1,011 17 3
Presidencies (Current Accounts)—			Money Order Accounts—		
Antigua	207 1 11		Barbados	600 0 0	
St. Kitts-Nevis	273 18 10		British Guiana	59 3 6	
Dominica	506 8 0		United States	318 2 2	977 5 8
Virgin Islands	30 6 0	1,017 14 9	Presidency of Montserrat		210 6 4
Deposit Accounts—			Sundry Advances—		
Land Assurance Fund	2,091 0 4		J. H. Learmonth	46 13 4	
Public Officers' Guarantee Fund	18 10 3	2,109 10 7	Superintendent, Printing Office	12 0 0	
Imperial Government		187 18 10	C. M. Martin	0 12 8	
Drafts and Remittances		34 11 8	Police Reward Fund	14 2 0	73 8 0
			Land Assurance Investment Account.		2,000 0 0
			General Account		187 18 10
		4,460 16 1			4,460 16 1

TABLE III.—*cont.*

Antigua—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1904.

Liabilities.	Amount.			Assets.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Deposits on Account, Money Orders	223	2	3	Advances on Account, Money Orders	232	19	8
" " Botanic Station	33	3	9	" " Private Secretary's Quarters	5	10	9
" " To Cover Duties	17	17	10	" " Government of Trinidad...	26	14	0
" " In aid of Sugar Industry ...	12	1	2	" " W. H. Patterson	20	0	0
" " Unrepresented Estates Reserve Fund.	26	12	6	" " Central Factory Scheme ...	168	14	10
" " Revenue Defence Fund ...	20	17	6	" " U. K. Post Office Account	2	19	9
" " City Fund	39	1	4	" " Treasurer Refunds repayable.	40	14	4
" " Prison Officers' Fine Fund ...	36	8	6	" " Extradition of J. E. Pigott	3	12	8
" " Barbuda Account	55	14	3	" " Worn Coin Account ...	3	16	6
" " Barbuda Grant, Cotton Growers Association.	98	3	10	" " City Board (Repair of Roads).	74	18	6
" " Provost Marshal's Deposit Account.	915	13	8½	Balances due by General Government, Leeward Islands.	207	1	10
" " Unrepresented Estates ...	244	13	1	" " Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis...	61	17	2½
" " Escheated " ...	211	16	9	" " " Dominica ...	23	8	5
" " Bankruptcy " ...	73	9	9	" " " Montserrat ...	9	15	8
" " Registrar's unclaimed Balances	13	10	7	" " " Virgin Islands ...	32	2	6½
" " Official Receiver, Globe Premises.	525	0	0	London & Westminster Bank Deposit Loan Account.	505	16	1
Refund of Grant Account, Sugar Cane Cultivation.	13	7	6	Commercial Bank of Scotland Deposit Account Bendals Factory.	3,500	0	0

TABLE III.—*cont.*

Antigua—Statement of Assets and Liabilities—cont.

Liabilities.	Amount.	Assets.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Drafts and Remittances	12 0 0	Colonial Bank Account Central Factory	15,000 0 0
Trustees of Grants in Aid, Sugar Factories ...	18,500 0 0	Crown Agents Advance Account	1,000 0 0
Loan Works, Wallings	254 6 3	Treasurer, Cash Balance	797 7 3
Excess of Assets	390 9 5½		
Total	21,717 10 0		21,717 10 0

St. Kitts-Nevis—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31*st March*, 1904.

Liabilities.	Amount.		Assets.	Amount.	
	£ s. d.	£ s d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Deposits—			Cash Account—		
To secure Duties	317 18 2		Treasurer		1,924 12 11
Revenue Defence Fund	67 16 3		Deposit at Interest in Colonial Bank		500 0 0
Provost Marshal	9 1 7				
Estate of De Geneste	187 12 5		Advances—		
Unrepresented Estates	12 18 8		Crown Agents (at Interest)... ...		2,500 0 0
" " Reserve Fund ...	0 3 10		Personal	64 8 0	
Botanic Department	137 2 4		General Government Leeward Islands.	273 18 10	
Receiver of Wrecks	5 5 0				
Prison Officers' Fine Fund	0 16 8				

TABLE III.—*cont.*

St. Kitts-Nevis—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1904.

Liabilities.	Amount.		Assets.	Amount.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Deposits—			Advances—		
Registrar of Courts	208 7 7		Presidencies	2 9 8	
Sale of Unclaimed Goods	4 3 9		Government of Trinidad	3 11 3	
British Cotton Growers' Association	0 18 0	952 4 3	G. P. O. London	0 10 0	344 17 9
Money Order Accounts—			Money Order Accounts—		
United Kingdom	136 3 9		Leeward Islands	340 16 6	
Barbados	191 18 9		Windward Islands	17 11 9	
British Guiana	1 19 4		Trinidad	16 1 7	
Jamaica	6 9 9	336 11 7	Bermuda	887 0 10	
Balances due to—			United States	202 6 7	
Family Remittances		50 0 0	Canada	0 12 6	1,464 9 9
Presidency of Antigua		57 15 6			
Government of British Guiana		0 0 1			
Public Works Loan, 1891		140 14 11			
Sinking Fund, Basseterre Improvement, 5/1891.		25 0 0			
Sinking Fund, Basseterre Improvement, 12/1901.		307 4 3			
Total Liabilities		1,869 10 7			
Excess of Assets		4,864 9 10	Total Assets		6,734 0 5
		6,734 0 5			6,734 0 5

TABLE III.—*cont.*

Presidency of Dominica.—Statement of the Liabilities and Assets on General Revenue Account on 31*st March*, 1904.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
			Cash		1,404 6 8½
Deposits to be repaid to—			Investments by Crown Agents ...		4,000 0 0
Sundry Money-Order Accounts	491 9 6		Drafts and Remittances		558 14 11
Registrar and Marshal	516 11 5½		Advances—		
Deposits to secure Duties ...	35 15 7		Sundry Money-Order Accounts	9 0 10	
Plaintiffs' Costs Deposit Account	2 4 6		Other authorised advances ...	318 10 11	
Prison Officers' Fine Fund ...	19 16 10				327 11 9
Revenue Defence Fund... ...	231 1 0		Balances due by—		
Receiver of Wreck	10 19 0		His Majesty's Government ...	13 17 8	
Administrators: Unrepresented Estates (Fees).	0 16 4½		General Government, Leeward Islands.	505 17 11½	
Inspector of Police	1 17 6		Government of British Guiana	2 1 8	
		1,310 11 9	General Post Office, London ...	16 10 8	
Balances due to—			Colonial Bank	212 10 0	
Crown Lands Fund	90 7 0				750 17 11½
Other Presidencies—					
Antigua	23 11 5				
St. Kitts-Nevis	1 5 0				
Montserrat	0 14 9				
Virgin Islands	4 5 0				
		120 3 2			
		1,430 14 11			
Excess of Assets...		5,610 16 5			
Total		7,041 11 4	Total		7,041 11 4

TABLE III.—*cont.*

Montserrat—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1904.

Liabilities.	Amount. £	s.	d.	Assets.	Amount. £	s.	d.
General Government	205	12	5	Advances—			
Antigua	9	15	8½	Reeds Hill Estate...	48	3	2
St. Kitts-Nevis	1	4	8	Sergeant-Major of Police	1	9	8
Dominica	0	1	11	First Treasury Officer	0	7	7
Provost Marshal	3	3	11	Drafts and Remittances	230	0	0
Escheated Estates	9	13	6	Sundry Money Order Accounts	82	8	7
Unrepresented Estates	3	17	9	Cash	1,175	15	3½
Deposit—							
To secure Duties	15	3	2				
Savings Bank	5	2	7				
Registrar	2	10	0				
United Kingdom Post Office Account	5	7	6				
Sundry Money Order Accounts	678	12	8				
Sugar Industry Advance Account	1	11	7				
Excess of Assets...	596	6	11				
Total	1,538	4	3½	Total	1,538	4	3½

TABLE III.—*cont.*

Virgin Islands—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1904.

Liabilities.	Amount.						Assets.	Amount.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Advances—							Advances—						
Antigua	32	2	6				General Government				30	6	0
G. P. O. London	53	9	7				Colonial Bank—						
				85	12	1	Antigua	200	0	0			
Agricultural Department				42	10	7	St. Thomas	48	4	1			
							Crown Agents	144	19	6			
Deposits—							Treasurer	80	10	1			
Unrepresented Estates Account ...	9	11	4								473	13	8
Provost Marshal's Account ...	1	4	11				Drafts and Remittances Account ...				15	18	2
Agricultural Department Produce Account.	1	0	8										
Government House Purchase Account.	100	0	0										
Prize Money Account	2	13	2										
Agricultural Show Account ...	8	8	6										
Cotton Account	2	15	6										
				125	14	1							
Sundry Money Order Accounts ...				245	4	8							
Excess of Assets				20	16	5							
Total				519	17	10	Total				519	17	10

TABLE IV.

TOTAL IMPORTS.

Country whence Imported.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	Increase 1903 over 1902.	Decrease 1903 under 1902.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	148,393	141,131	160,827	165,958	168,700	2,742	—
British Colonies	45 259	55 810	51,441	56,941	51,716	—	5 225
United States of America	137.224	140.022	137,496	143,521	150,240	6,719	—
Other Foreign Countries	9,236	9,432	8,466	8,107	7,044	—	1,063
Total	340,112	346,395	358,230	374,527	377,700	9,461	6,288

Net increase in value of Imports in 1903 as compared with 1902, £3,173.

TABLE V.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTS.

Articles.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	Increase 1903 over 1902.	Decrease 1903 under 1902.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Live Animals	1,954	1,210	2.108	3,450	1,350	—	2,100
Foodstuffs	141,192	140,507	135.623	136,831	146,081	9,250	—
Drinks	9,629	10,192	9,346	12,423	8,935	—	3,488
Narcotics	3.377	3,181	3,659	3,799	3,236	—	563
Raw Materials..	16.029	15.717	17,359	24,064	12.222	—	11,842
Manufactured Articles, Textile ..	74,876	64,677	86,534	92,365	75,475	—	16,890
" " Metal ..	16,994	24,430	21,546	21,180	28,131	6,951	—
Other Manufactures	74,712	77,319	79,953	79,614	100,926	21,312	—
	338,763	337,233	356.128	373,720	376,356	37,513	34,883
Coin and Bullion	1,349	9,162	2,102	801	1,344	543	—
Total	340,112	346,395	358,230	374,527	377,700	38,056	34,883

Net increase in 1903, £3,173.

TABLE VI.

SUMMARY OF EXPORTS.

Countries to which Exported.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	Increase 1903 over 1902.	Decrease 1903 under 1902.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	60,207	61,673	60.374	78,292	67,178	—	11,114
British Colonies	41.722	45.547	48.071	129 611	152,075	22,464	—
United States of America	234,254	154,121	183,696	92,617	74,467	—	18 150
Other Foreign Countries	15,246	17,679	15,203	17,315	17.749	434	—
Total	351,429	279,020	307.344	317,835	311,469	22,898	29,264

Net decrease in 1903, £6,366.

TABLE VII.

Principal Exports.

Articles of Export.	1899.		1900.		1901.		1902.		1903.		Increase 1903 over 1902.		Decrease 1903 under 1902.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Sugar ... Tons	22,815	£ 230,029	15,384	£ 157,737	21,990	£ 198,769	30,339	£ 176,691	25,020	£ 170,695	—	£ —	5,319	£ 5,996
Molasses Puns.	7,292	20,152	6,142	22,853	7,055	15,808	10,891	12,383	9,501	32,447	—	20,064	1,390	—
Rum ... Galls.	28,721	1,554	15,352	1,003	53,248	2,317	82,296	2,774	16,435	611	—	—	65,861	2,163
Coffee ... lbs.	16,037	377	5,957	207	5,306	170	4,404	106	3,659	92	—	—	745	14
Cocoa ... lbs.	868,441	20,372	1,036,173	24,285	976,952	22,898	1,332,024	28,442	970,732	20,730	—	—	361,292	7,712
Limes and Lime Juice.	—	32,780	—	32,277	—	33,517	—	47,824	—	24,608	—	—	—	23,216
Total ...	—	305,264	—	238,362	—	273,479	—	268,220	—	249,183	—	20,064	—	39,101

TABLE VIII.

Summary showing Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared.

—	British.						Foreign.					
	Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.			Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.		
	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.
Antigua	239,017	239,017	478,034	7,895	7,863	15,758	9,877	9,877	19,754	650	650	1,300
St. Kitts	214,741	214,741	429,482	6,930	6,334	13,264	16,183	16,183	32,366	4,495	4,489	8,984
Nevis	34,028	34,028	68,056	877	1,393	2,270	—	—	—	126	132	258
Anguilla	—	—	—	1,611	1,635	3,246	—	—	—	121	121	242
Dominica	241,539	241,539	483,078	3,745	3,741	7,486	8,065	8,065	16,130	1,885	1,873	3,758
Montserrat	141,942	141,942	283,884	5,538	5,203	10,741	—	—	—	256	236	492
Virgin Islands	149	149	298	6,030	5,978	12,008	—	—	—	455	436	891
Total	871,416	871,416	1,742,832	32,626	32,147	64,773	34,125	34,125	68,250	7,988	7,937	15,925

TABLE IX.

Hospitals.

Hospitals.	Number in Hospital on 1st January 1903.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua	165	1,737	836	526	—	364
St. Kitts	110	1,050	732	137	71	106
Nevis	36	128	56	22	3	38
Dominica	67	542	401	77	14	60
Montserrat	64	89	48	18	7	19
Total... ...	442	3,546	2,073	780	95	587

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
426	Gold Coast	1903
427	Lagos	"
428	Bahamas...	1903–1904
429	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1903
430	Mauritius	"
431	Seychelles	"
432	Barbados	1903–1904
433	Southern Nigeria	1903
434	Fiji	"
435	Straits Settlements	"
436	Grenada...	"
437	Northern Nigeria	"
438	Jamaica	1903–1904
439	Malta	"
440	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1902–1903 and 1903–1904
441	British Guiana	1903–1904
442	Trinidad and Tobago	"
443	St. Lucia	1903
444	Basutoland	1903–1904

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada...	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone ...	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.

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1905.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 478.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1904-5.

(For Report for 1903-4, *see* No. 445.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty

November, 1905.

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1905.

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No. 478.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1903–4, *see* No. 445.)

ACTING-GOVERNOR BELL to MR. LYTTELTON.

Government House, Antigua,
20th October, 1905.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1904-5, together with a copy of the report thereon by Mr. Edward B. Jarvis, Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

H. HESKETH BELL,
Acting-Governor.

1125 Wt 23792 12/05 D & S 5 22957

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1904-5.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year 1904-5 (exclusive of grants-in-aid from the Imperial Government amounting to £14,091) was £128,922, showing a net increase of £4,774 over that for the previous financial year.

The following table shows the amount of revenue collected in each Presidency during the last five years, as also the increase or decrease in 1904-5 as compared with 1903-4:—

Presidency.	1900.	1901-2.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	Increase 1904-5 over 1903-4.	Decrease 1904-5 under 1903-4.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ...	42,652	42,067	46,395	43,812	44,295	483	—
St. Kitts-Nevis	39,904	43,793	42,773	39,127	43,905	4,778	—
Dominica ...	28,113	29,598	31,045	31,443	30,982	—	461
Montserrat ...	6,664	6,196	6,294	7,599	7,237	—	362
Virgin Islands	2,117	1,796	1,848	2,167	2,503	336	—
Total ...	119,450	123,450	128,354	124,148	128,922	5,597	823

Net increase of revenue in 1904-5, as compared with 1903-4, £4,774.

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue collected in each Presidency of the Colony in the years 1903-4 and 1904-5:—

Comparative Statement of Revenue collected in each Presidency of the Colony in the Years 1903-4 *and* 1904–5.

Heads of Revenue.	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Montserrat.
	1903–4.	1904–5.	1903–4.	1904–5.	1903–4.	1904–5.	1903–4.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs—							
Import Duties on other than alcoholic liquors.	19,052 7 0	19,364 8 11	17,310 8 0	18,242 18 6	12,761 19 0	12,215 19 11	3,250 1 8
Import Duties on alcoholic liquor	3,135 3 6	4,600 0 0	3,305 0 0	3,049 9 3	1,399 0 10	1,323 7 8	1,463 13 11
Export Duty	—	—	215 16 5	3,292 16 11	1,414 10 10	1,777 7 0	—
	22,187 10 6	23,964 18 11	20,831 4 5	24,585 4 8	15,575 10 8	15,316 14 7	4,713 15 7
Ports, Harbour Dues, &c.	2,914 9 1	3,199 19 1	2,422 4 11	3,881 9 4	2,025 11 8	2,118 14 7	261 18 9
Internal Revenue—							
Excise	3,512 1 11	2,215 11 6	3,645 4 7	3,811 3 2	4,675 2 3	4,301 15 2	—
Taxes	3,968 6 1	4,184 2 9	2,422 14 3	3,739 1 2	3,226 1 9	3,068 16 5	732 18 10
Licenses	1,359 0 8	1,358 16 2	2,161 4 0	2,205 19 0	1,863 1 11	1,761 3 9	327 4 0
Rates	—	—	406 17 8	453 19 0	70 14 0	—	74 6 10
Miscellaneous	302 11 5	307 1 8	307 19 6	451 18 0	553 4 3	779 7 3	63 10 3
	9,142 0 1	8,065 12 1	8,944 0 0	10,662 0 4	10,388 4 2	12,029 17 2	1,197 19 11
Fees of Court, &c.	6,009 15 0	6,139 4 10	2,119 8 8	1,572 2 10	1,279 4 1½	1,621 6 2	277 10 7
Municipal Rates and Taxes ...	—	—	1,298 6 6	364 13 3	—	—	—
Post Office, &c.	2,920 6 4½	2,441 15 11	2,751 13 0	2,053 18 6	1,949 4 6	1,448 17 8	1,175 19 10
Lime Industry	—	—	—	276 6 4	—	—	—
Rents	82 9 9	103 2 0	314 2 3	206 13 7	58 18 0	35 9 3	2 5 0
Interest	86 19 7	21 12 7	163 9 3	110 17 0	137 10 9	119 15 7	—
Miscellaneous	468 5 8	358 8 3	248 9 11	179 14 2	29 3 6½	384 18 11	29 18 6
Land Sales	—	—	33 11 3	12 0 0	—	25 5 0	—
	43,811 16 0½	44,294 13 8	39,126 10 2	43,905 0 0	31,443 7 5	30,982 4 4	7,599 8 2

Comparative Statement of Revenue—cont.

Heads of Revenue	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.		Total for Colony.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1904–5.	1903–4.	1904–5.	1903–4.	1904–5	1904–5.	1904–5.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs—							
Import Duties on other than alcoholic liquors.	3,212 7 2	496 16 9	502 15 7	52,871 12 5	53,538 10 1	666 7 8	—
Import Duties on alcoholic liquor	1,648 12 9	95 1 0	71 19 4	9,397 19 3	10,693 19 0	1,295 9 9	—
Export Duty	—	410 18 2	367 4 11	2,041 5 5	5,437 8 10	3,396 3 5	—
	4,860 19 11	1,002 15 11	941 19 10	64,310 17 1	69,669 17 11	—	—
Ports, Harbour Dues, &c.	186 13 8	41 1 7	35 12 4	7,605 6 0	9,422 9 0	1,817 3 0	—
Internal Revenue—							
Excise	—	—	—	11,832 8 9	10,328 9 10	—	1,503 18 11
Taxes	763 19 0	369 19 3	352 9 2	10,720 0 2	12,108 8 6	1,383 8 4	—
Licenses	285 16 8	216 4 8	229 18 6	5,926 15 3	5,841 14 1	—	85 1 2
Rates	60 18 3	—	—	551 18 6	514 17 3	—	37 1 3
Miscellaneous	100 13 6	129 2 0	21 18 3	1,356 7 5	1,660 18 8	304 11 3	—
	1,211 7 5	715 5 11	604 5 11	30,387 10 1	30,454 8 4	—	—
Fees of Court, &c.	239 7 4	129 11 5	117 13 8	9,815 9 9½	9,689 14 10	—	125 14 11½
Municipal Rates and Taxes ...	—	—	—	1,298 6 6	364 13 3	—	933 13 3
Post Office, &c.	724 1 3½	250 6 10	789 5 4	9,047 10 6½	7,457 18 8½	—	1,589 11 10
Lime Industry	—	—	—	—	276 6 4	276 6 4	—
Rents	3 16 1	0 18 0	0 18 0	458 13 0	349 18 11	—	108 14 1
Interest	—	9 0 0	3 0 0	396 19 7	255 5 2	—	141 14 5
Miscellaneous	7 16 5	17 18 11	9 19 2	793 16 6½	940 16 11	147 0 4½	—
Land Sales	3 4 0	—	—	33 11 3	40 9 0	6 17 9	—
	7,237 6 1½	2,166 18 7	2,502 14 3	124,148 0 4½	128,921 18 4½	9,299 7 10½	4,525 9 10½

Net increase £4,773 18*s.* 0*d.*

Under the head "Customs" Antigua shows an increase of £1,777, St. Kitts-Nevis £3,754, Montserrat £147, and Dominica and the Virgin Islands decreases of £259 and £61 respectively.

Under the head "Port and Harbour Dues" Antigua shows an increase of £286, St. Kitts-Nevis of £459, and Dominica of £94, while Montserrat and the Virgin Islands exhibit decreases of £76 and £7 respectively.

Under the head "Excise" there is an increase of £166 in St. Kitts-Nevis, a decrease of £296 in Antigua and a decrease of £166 in Dominica.

Under the head "Taxes" increases appear in Antigua of £216, in St. Kitts-Nevis of £1,316, and in Montserrat of £131, and decreases of £157 in Dominica and £28 in the Virgin Islands.

Under the head "Licenses" there is a total decrease for the Colony of £85.

Under the heading "Municipal Rates and Taxes" there is a decrease of £934 in St. Kitts-Nevis. During the year the Basseterre Town Board was established and took over the control of its own finances.

Under "Post Office" there is a decrease of £1,590 for the Colony, which is due to the falling off in the sale of stamps. During the year 1903-4 new Presidential stamps were introduced. A corresponding reduction in expenditure appears under head No. 23, "Post Office."

Expenditure.

The total expenditure for the year 1904-5 was £133,559 as against £138,029 for the year 1903-4, showing a decrease of £4,470.

The following table shows the expenditure of each Presidency for each of the last five years, as also the increase or decrease in 1904-5 as compared with 1903-4:—

Presidency.	1900.	1901–2.	1902–3	1903–4.	1904–5.	Increase 1904–5 over 1903–4.	Decrease 1904–5 under 1903–4.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ...	49,435	48,514	48,992	50,209	48,670	—	1,539
St. Kitts-Nevis	43,964	44,135	43,713	44,782	43,063	—	1,719
Dominica ...	26,780	28,012	30,419	31,331	31,003	—	298
Montserrat ...	9,597	10,312	9,917	9,364	8,361	—	1,003
Virgin Islands	2,197	1,924	1,854	2,342	2,431	89	—
Total ...	131,973	132,897	134,895	138,029	133,559	89	4,559

Net decrease of expenditure in 1904-5, as compared with 1903-4, £4,470.

The following is a comparative statement of the expenditure in each Presidency of the Colony in the years 1903-4 and 1904-5:—

Comparative Statement of the Expenditure in each Presidency of the Colony in the Years 1903–4 *and* 1904–5.

	Heads of Expenditure.	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Montserrat.
		1903–4.	1904–5.	1903–4.	1904–5.	1903–4.	1904–5.	1903–4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Charges on Account of Public Debt	7,271 8 10	7,169 8 10	3,726 0 8	3,678 19 8	3,375 0 0	3,375 0 0	599 19 10
2	Pensions	711 0 6	952 17 0	1,523 12 10	1,379 1 10	310 16 11	342 11 7	327 5 4
3	Legislature	75 0 0	75 0 0	—	—	54 17 9	52 12 0	—
4	Island Secretary (Commissioner)	177 9 0	180 2 2	1,161 5 11	1,096 4 9	1,425 8 7	1,439 14 11	626 13 10
5	Federal Contribution	3,082 6 0	3,079 9 5	3,326 16 1	3,220 17 9	2,252 11 5	2,303 14 3	561 11 3
6	Treasury and Customs	1,555 11 3	1,505 6 0	1,918 5 6	1,823 9 10	2,404 15 1	2,727 4 1	543 0 9
7	Audit	25 11 2	37 14 9	—	—	6 0 0	6 0 0	—
8	Port and Marine	2,061 19 8	1,425 0 9	132 5 2	399 4 0	274 5 9	67 15 11	8 10 9
9	Registrar and Provost Marshal	778 3 9	805 19 10	776 2 4	863 18 7	618 19 1	645 5 1	39 3 5
	Magistrates	932 3 8	903 15 10	1,726 19 1	1,709 16 3	827 17 3	822 16 1	11 9 8
10	Police	3,650 8 5	3,447 19 3	2,847 5 5	2,919 6 6	1,908 18 8	1,860 13 7	1,078 11 4
11	Prisons	3,066 14 11	2,800 19 4	1,109 1 10	1,006 11 0	793 19 6	973 11 1	127 2 1
12	Medical	2,037 11 10	2,059 16 5	1,849 2 5	1,907 1 9	1,745 11 7	1,663 8 8	427 10 1
13	Hospitals	7,379 13 9	7,128 19 11	6,828 6 5	6,860 0 4	2,600 5 0	2,587 17 4	903 15 6
14	Education	1,866 2 5	1,917 2 3	2,428 13 0	2,465 3 8	2,550 12 2	2,601 9 5	814 14 1
15	Ecclesiastical	—	—	256 0 0	256 0 0	—	—	424 7 10
16	Board of Health	2,748 5 1	2,638 2 7	3,130 18 8	1,852 7 4	259 18 9	86 8 9	233 18 5
17	Registration and Vaccination	277 5 6	298 4 7	574 18 9	516 5 0	113 18 8	60 5 6	95 5 4
18	Public Market	—	—	37 18 10	36 1 0	—	—	32 11 2
19	Public Library	—	—	60 0 0	60 0 0	75 0 0	75 0 0	50 0 0
20	Laboratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21	Military	334 0 6	288 3 4	209 13 2	413 15 9	—	89 19 0	31 9 10
22	Miscellaneous	1,398 0 11	1,503 14 5	2,056 8 7	1,403 3 11	2,048 7 0	2,125 1 2	290 11 8
23	Post Office	2,461 5 9¼	2,022 15 4	1,481 3 4	1,318 8 7	1,568 17 3	1,110 18 0	743 5 4
	Telegraphs	500 0 0	500 0 0	527 4 6	512 16 8	400 0 0	400 0 0	—
	Telephones	720 7 0	703 5 10	466 4 10	456 1 3	934 7 2	1,415 14 1	—
24	Public Works Department	1,022 5 0	1,096 4 4	1,007 0 2	975 2 10	563 11 0	663 19 9	15 14 4
25	〃 Recurrent	3,242 3 5	3,015 1 6	3,759 17 1	3,396 15 8	2,114 10 9	2,181 15 6	727 12 7
28	Local Department of Agriculture	1,171 1 10	1,214 18 8	—	—	—	—	75 11 5
29	Repayment of Loans	—	—	—	550 0 0	—	—	—
30	Forestry Department	—	—	—	93 12 6	—	—	2 9 6
		48,546 0 2¼	46,770 2 4	42,921 13 7	41,170 6 5	29,228 9 7	29,687 15 9	8,789 16 8
26	Public Works Extraordinary	849 15 5	1,316 15 10	1,860 9 9	1,751 17 3	2,102 12 2	1,344 18 7	571 17 9
	from Loan	—	—	—	140 14 11	—	—	—
	Total	49,395 15 7¼	48,086 18 2	44,782 3 4	43,062 18 7	31,331 1 9	31,032 14 4	9,361 14 5
	Barbuda	813 7 6	583 9 11	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	50,209 3 1¼	48,670 8 1	44,782 3 4	43,062 18 7	31,331 1 9	31,032 14 4	9,361 14 5

* For statement of Imperial Grants, *see* Summary on pages 10 and 11.

Comparative Statement of Expenditure—cont.

	Heads of Expenditure.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.		Total Colony.		Increase.	Decrease.
		1904-5.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1904-5.	1904-5.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Charges on Account of Public Debt	589 19 10	—	—	14,972 18 4	14,813 8 4	—	159 10 0
2	Pensions	250 1 1	61 17 8	71 11 6	2,934 13 3	2,996 3 0	61 9 9	—
3	Legislature	—	—	—	129 17 9	127 12 0	—	2 5 9
4	Island Secretary (Commissioner)	623 14 9	459 0 10	541 8 3	3,849 18 2	3,881 4 10	31 6 8	—
5	Federal Contribution	540 1 5	102 10 8	102 2 8	9,325 15 5	9,246 5 6	—	79 9 11
6	Treasury and Customs	513 0 3	568 7 3	354 16 7	6,989 19 10	6,923 16 9	—	66 3 1
7	Audit	—	—	—	31 11 2	43 14 9	12 3 7	—
8	Port and Marine	14 6 1	—	—	2,477 1 4	1,906 6 9	—	570 14 7
9	Registrar and Provost Marshal	45 18 11	35 1 10	112 12 6	2,247 10 5	2,473 14 11	226 4 6	—
	Magistrates	12 0 0	18 7 6	15 14 6	3,516 17 2	3,464 2 8	—	52 14 6
10	Police	1,171 7 6	84 4 9	114 10 11	9,569 8 7	9,522 17 9	—	46 10 10
11	Prisons	118 16 4	92 1 8	120 17 10	5,189 0 0	5,020 15 7	—	168 4 5
12	Medical	464 19 0	124 10 2	53 10 3	6,184 6 1	6,148 16 1	—	35 10 0
13	Hospitals	905 0 9	204 11 9	227 1 11	17,916 12 5	17,709 0 3	—	207 12 2
14	Education	807 19 3	134 3 7	136 7 8	7,794 6 1	7,928 2 3	133 16 2	—
15	Ecclesiastical	458 5 0	—	—	680 7 10	714 5 0	33 17 2	—
16	Board of Health	177 5 2	8 9 0	5 0 0	6,381 9 11	4,759 3 10	—	1,622 6 1
17	Registration and Vaccination	106 12 7	26 14 5	38 8 10	1,088 2 8	1,019 16 6	—	68 6 2
18	Public Market	31 16 1	—	—	70 10 0	67 17 1	—	2 12 11
19	Public Library	50 0 0	—	—	185 0 0	185 0 0	—	—
20	Laboratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21	Military	91 14 0	—	—	575 3 6	883 12 1	308 8 7	—
22	Miscellaneous	391 16 1	84 16 6	153 4 9	5,878 4 8	5,577 0 4	—	301 4 4
23	Post Office	273 12 11	81 9 3	247 7 11	6,336 1 2½	4,973 2 9	—	1,362 18 5½
	Telegraphs	—	—	—	1,427 4 6	1,412 16 8	—	14 7 10
	Telephones	—	—	—	2,120 19 0	2,575 1 2	454 2 2	—
24	Public Works Department	15 12 7	—	—	2,608 10 6	2,750 19 6	142 9 0	—
25	Recurrent	659 4 4	38 14 8	48 4 8	9,882 18 6	9,301 1 8	—	581 16 10
28	Local Department of Agriculture	30 0 7	—	—	1,246 13 3	1,245 5 3	—	1 8 0
29	Repayment of Loans	—	—	—	—	550 0 0	550 0 0	—
30	Forestry Department	—	—	—	2 9 6	93 12 6	91 3 0	—
		8,343 10 6	2,125 1 6	2,343 0 9	131,613 11 0½	128,314 15 9	2,045 0 7	5,343 15 10½
26	Public Works Extraordinary	17 16 0	217 0 5	88 2 10	5,601 15 6	4,519 10 6	—	1,082 5 0
	from Loan	—	—	—	—	140 14 11	140 14 11	—
	Total	8,361 6 6	2,342 1 11	2,431 3 7	137,215 6 6½	132,975 1 2	2,185 15 6	6,426 0 10½
	Barbuda	—	—	—	813 7 6	583 9 11	—	229 17 7
	Total	8,361 6 6	2,342 1 11	2,431 3 7	138,028 14 0½	133,558 11 1	2,185 15 6	6,655 18 5½

Net decrease, £4,470 2*s*. 11½*d*.

The increases in the expenditure amount to £2,186. The largest increases appear under the following heads :—

Number.	Head.	Amount.
		£
2	Pensions	61
4	Island Secretary	31
9	Registrar and Provost Marshal	226
14	Education	134
15	Ecclesiastical	34
21	Military	308
23	Telephones	454
24	Public Works Department	142
29	Repayment of Loans	550
30	Forestry Department	94
26	Public Works from Loan	141

Decreases in expenditure amount to £6,656 and occur principally under the following heads :—

Number.	Head.	Amount.
		£
1	Public Debt...	159
5	Federal Contribution	79
6	Treasury and Customs	66
8	Port and Marine	571
9	Registrar and Provost Marshal (Magistrates) ...	53
10	Police	47
11	Prisons	168
12	Medical	36
13	Hospitals	208
16	Board of Health	1,622
17	Registration and Vaccination	68
22	Miscellaneous	301
23	Post Office	1,363
25	Public Works Recurrent	582

Briefly reviewed, expenditure in Antigua (including Barbuda) shows a decrease of £1,539, in St. Kitts-Nevis a decrease of £1,719, in Dominica a decrease of £298, in Montserrat a decrease of £1,003, and in the Virgin Islands an increase of £89, compared with that of 1903-4.

Imperial assistance to the extent of £14,091 was afforded to the Colony during the year under review, as follows:—

Antigua:—

	£	£
In aid of Revenue	7,750	
Botanical Department ...	984	
Sugar Factory expenses ...	167	
	——	8,901

	£	£
Brought forward ...		8,901
St. Kitts-Nevis:—		
Botanical Department ...		1,130
Dominica:—		
Botanical Department ...		1,420
Montserrat:—		
In aid of Revenue	1,500	
Botanical Department ...	550	
		2,050
Virgin Islands:—		
Botanical Department ...		590
Total ...		£14,091

To this must be added the sum of £3,250 provided annually from Imperial funds for the salaries of the Governor, Private Secretary, and staff.

(B.) Changes in Taxation.

There were no important changes in taxation during the year.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1905.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Antigua Current Account	641 2 4		Cash	1,270 6 0	
Montserrat Current Account ...	1,119 16 10		Crown Agents	823 16 3	
St. Kitts-Nevis Current Account ...	141 13 8				2,094 2 3
		1,902 12 10	Dominica Current Account ...	10 10 7	
			Virgin Islands	38 9 0	
Bermuda Money Order Account ...	497 6 4				48 19 7
Canada " " " ...	79 13 6		Barbados Money Order Account ...	373 1 6	
Jamaica " " " ...	13 19 5		British Guiana	17 14 7	
		590 19 3	United States	171 14 10	
					562 10 11
P. O. Guarantee Fund		20 16 1	W. M. McDonald	5 4 2	
Land Assurance Fund		2,224 3 1	Superintendent, Printing Office ...	12 0 0	
Imperial Government		214 17 0			17 4 2
Drafts and Remittances		48 0 0	Police Reward Fund		63 14 4
			Land Assurance Investment Account.		2,000 0 0
			General Account		214 17 0
		5,001 8 3			5,001 8 3

Antigua—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31*st March*, 1905.

Liabilities.	Amount. £	s.	d.	Assets.	Amount. £	s.	d.
Deposits on Account, Money Orders	224	16	7	Advances on Account, Money Orders	501	1	7
" " Botanic Station Account, Seeds	6	5	5½	" " Purchase of Wire Gauze...	38	13	9
" " To cover Duties	18	13	10	" " Worn Coin...	0	7	6
" " Registrar of Courts	172	4	3	" " City Board Account, Roads	41	12	6
" " Registrar and Provost Marshal	18	12	8½	" " W. R. Branch	12	10	0
" " Revenue Defence Fund ...	35	1	7	" " W. J. Essex	22	0	0
" " City Fund	341	18	8	" " W. J. Abbott	9	0	0
" " Prison Officers' Fine Fund ...	36	0	6	" " Captain Learmouth ...	65	0	0
" " Barbuda Account	227	19	7				
" " Official Receiver Account, Globe Premises.	525	0	0	Balances due by General Government, Leeward Islands.	640	17	4
Balances due to U.K. Post Office	24	19	8	" " Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis...	165	11	2
" Loan Works, Wallings	177	1	6	" " " Dominica ...	30	2	7
" Montserrat	62	4	7	" " Government of Cyprus... ...	30	11	1
" Unrepresented Estates	222	13	7	" " " Virgin Islands...	61	0	8
" Escheated "	251	2	6	" " " Trinidad ...	26	14	0
" Bankruptcy "	89	12	0	Crown Agents' Current Account	1,050	4	2
" Registrar's unclaimed Balances	13	10	7	Crown Agents Advance Account	1,500	0	0
Deposits. Grants in aid of Sugar Industry ...	25	8	8	Treasurer, Cash Balance	1,991	7	4½
" Skerretts Boys' Earnings	0	6	1	Commercial Bank of Scotland Deposit Account. Bendals Factory.	3,500	0	0
" Unrepresented Estates Reserve Fund...	34	11	5				
" Cotton Growing, Barbuda	4	16	6	Colonial Bank Account, Central Factory... ...	15,000	0	0

Antigua—Statement of Assets and Liabilities—cont.

Liabilities.	Amount.			Assets.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Deposits. Botanic Department	106	6	6	London and Westminster Bank Deposits, Public Works Loan.	210	18	1
Trustees of Grants Account, Sugar Factories ...	18,500	0	0				
Drafts and Remittances	13	10	0				
Excess of Assets	3,764	15	0½				
Total	24,897	11	9½	Total	24,897	11	9½

St. Kitts-Nevis—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31*st March*, 1905.

Liabilities.	Amount.						Assets.	Amount.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Deposits—							Cash—						
To secure Duties	21	2	10				Treasurer's				192	0	8
Revenue Defence Fund	83	9	11				Revenue Officer, Nevis				71	2	11
Provost Marshal	9	1	7				Magistrate, Anguilla...				36	13	5
Unrepresented Estates	38	10	2				Crown Agents				711	1	3
" " Reserve Fund ...	0	3	10				Deposit at Interest in Colonial Bank				2,500	0	0
Prison Officers' Fine Fund	1	6	8										
Botanic Department	64	5	6				Advances—						
Registrar of Courts	197	2	7				Crown Agents (at Interest)... ...				1,000	0	0
Town Fund	441	3	4				Personal	63	17	5			

St. Kitts-Nevis—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1905—cont.

Liabilities.	Amount.		Assets.	Amount.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Deposits—*cont.*			Advances—*cont.*		
Postal Orders	1 2 1		Government of Trinidad	3 11 3	
		857 8 6	Government of British Guiana ...	7 18 11	
Money Order Accounts—			General Government Leeward Islands.	141 13 8	
United Kingdom	50 3 0				
Windward Islands...	3 10 2		Presidencies	8 9 5	
Barbados	113 8 7				225 10 8
British Guiana	0 12 7		Money Order Accounts—		
Jamaica	7 10 1		Leeward Islands	284 14 4	
Canada	4 16 4		Trinidad	54 6 7	
		180 0 9	Bermuda	958 5 4	
Balances due to—			United States	146 7 7	
Family Remittances		15 6 8			1,443 13 10
Presidencies		187 12 6	Worn Coin in Transit		1,008 16 0
Improvement, Basseterre, 5/1891 ...		50 0 0			
„ „ 12/1901 ...		51 4 2			
Total Liabilities		1,341 12 7	Total Assets		7,188 18 9
Excess of Assets		5,847 6 2			
		7,188 18 9			7,188 18 9

Dominica.—Statement of the Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1905.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
Deposits to be repaid to—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sundry Money Order Accounts	544 12 4		Cash		647 1 8
Postal Orders Account	76 19 7		Investments by Crown Agents ...		4,000 0 0
Registrar and Marshal	12 13 2½		Drafts and Remittances		872 14 2
Registrar of Courts	37 4 2½		Advances—		
Deposits to secure Duties ...	5 10 11		Sundry Money Order Accounts	42 15 9	
Plaintiffs' Costs Account ...	0 12 0		Other authorised advances ...	421 13 3	
Prison Officers' Fine Fund ...	21 7 1				464 9 0
Titles to Land Assurance Fund	0 7 9½		Balances due by—		
Revenue Defence Fund... ...	21 2 1		Crown Agents on Current Account.	46 6 2	
Administrators Unrepresented Estates (Fees).	0 9 11½	720 19 2	Other Presidencies—		
			Montserrat	0 1 10	
Balances due to—			Virgin Islands	0 8 3	
His Majesty's Government ...	39 1 3		General Post Office, London ...	0 10 8	
General Government Leeward Islands.	10 10 7		Crown Lands Fund	14 9 7	
					61 16 6
Other Presidencies—					
Antigua	30 2 7				
St. Kitts-Nevis	0 10 6				
		80 4 11			
		801 4 1			
Excess of Assets...		5,244 17 3			
Total		6,046 1 4	Total		6,046 1 4

Montserrat—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31*st March*, 1905.

Liabilities.	Amount. £	s.	d.	Assets.	Amount. £	s.	d.
Sugar Industry Advance Account	1	11	7	Advances—			
Botanical Department Advance Account	14	11	4	William Robson	22	0	0
				Reeds Hill Estate	4	8	1
Deposits—				Savings Bank	450	0	0
Provost Marshal	3	3	11	United Kingdom Post Office Account	1	0	0½
Escheated Estates	9	13	6	General Government Current "	1,119	16	10
Unrepresented Estates	3	17	9	Antigua	56	6	6
To secure Duties	9	19	9	Virgin Islands	8	7	4
Registrar	0	8	4				
" District B.	0	12	6	Money Orders—			
On Account of Land Tax	10	0	0	United States	21	16	5
Crown Agents Current Account	250	4	10	British Guiana	0	2	7
St Kitts-Nevis " "	8	9	5	Bermuda	3	14	0
Dominica " "	0	1	10	Trinidad	44	2	11
				Windward Islands	24	18	0
Money Orders—				Cash	289	3	8
United Kingdom	111	15	0	Postal Orders	2	3	10
Canada	133	7	2	Drafts and Remittances	70	13	6
Barbados	170	15	10				
Jamaica	0	15	0				
Leeward Islands	416	19	5				
	1,146	7	2				
Excess of Assets	972	6	6½				
Total	2,118	13	8½	Total	2,118	13	8½

Virgin Islands—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31*st March,* 1905.

Liabilities.	Amount.		Assets.	Amount.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Advances—			Advances—		
General Government	38 9 0		St. Kitts-Nevis		6 19 4
Antigua	61 0 8		Colonial Bank—		
Dominica	0 8 3		Antigua	300 0 0	
Montserrat	8 7 4		St. Thomas	69 17 8	
H.M. Postmaster-General	13 17 10		Treasurer	23 5 0	
		122 3 1	Crown Agents	195 9 11	
Agricultural Department		44 14 9			588 12 7
Deposits—			Sundry Money Order Accounts		1 8 9
Unrepresented Estates Account	9 11 4				
Provost Marshal's Account	1 4 11				
Agricultural Department Produce Account.	4 5 10				
Government House Purchase Account.	150 0 0				
Prize Money Account	0 7 7				
Agricultural Show Account	8 8 6				
Cotton Account	0 4 8				
		174 2 10			
Sundry Money Orders		159 9 7			
Drafts and Remittances account		4 3 4			
Excess of Assets		92 7 1			
Total		597 0 8	Total		597 0 8

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt of the Colony secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies amounts to £283,371.

The following amounts have been paid off during the year:—

St. John's Savings Bank Loan, Antigua, £4,040 15*s.* 1*d.*, and Improvement of Basseterre Loan, St. Kitts, £5,250.

The following table gives a list of the loans raised at different times and the amount standing to the credit of their respective sinking funds:—

Loans.	Amount.	Amount to Credit of Sinking Fund.
Antigua—	£	£
Immigration...	5,171	4,936
In Aid of Revenue borrowed from St. John's Savings Bank.	8,940*	4,040
Wallings Reservoir...	14,000	2,475
Additional Waterworks	12,200	7,216
Public Works and Harbour Improvements.	100,000	18,800
St. Kitts-Nevis—		
Basseterre Protection	3,900	943
Waterworks (Sandy Point and Dieppe Bay).	8,000	1,976
Waterworks, Nevis	8,850 }	3,762
Public Works	23,000 }	
Public Works, 1891...	23,500	3,605
Improvement of Basseterre ...	9,000	101
Dominica—		
Public Works and Revenue in Aid	5,000	1,800
Roads and Bridges, 1880 and 1890	30,000	5,299
Roads and Bridges, 1895	30,000	3,329
Montserrat—		
Waterworks, 1883	1,100	300
Waterworks, 1893	10,000	1,240
	292,661	59,822
Less amount repaid	9,290	
	283,371	

* Amount repaid £4,040. † Amount repaid £5,250.

(E.) CURRENCY.

There is nothing calling for remark under this head. The bank rates of exchange remain unaltered.

(F.) MUNICIPALITIES.

The revenue of the St. John's City Board, established under Antigua Ordinance No. 5 of 1898, amounted to £4,502, as compared with £4,182 for last year.

The expenditure for the same period amounted to £4,410, leaving a net surplus of £92 on the year's working. The Board receives a grant of £2,100 per annum. From this should be deducted the sum of £848 paid as interest and sinking fund on the Water Works Loans of 1885 and 1890.

Town Boards also exist in Basseterre (St. Kitts) and Roseau (Dominica). The former was established under Act No. 3 of 1896, and the latter under Ordinance No. 13 of 1901.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports.

The total value of imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1904, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £388,222 as against £377,700 in 1903, being an increase of £10,522.

The following table shows the total value of imports for the last five years, distinguishing the countries from which the imports came, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1904 as compared with the previous year:—

TOTAL IMPORTS.

Country whence Imported.	1900.	1901.	1902	1903.	1904.	Increase 1904 over 1903.	Decrease 1904 under 1903.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	141.131	160,827	165,958	168,700	175,546	6,846	—
British Colonies	55,810	51,441	56,941	51,716	56,541	4,825	—
United States of America	140,022	137.496	143,521	150,240	144,026	—	6,214
Other Foreign Countries	9,432	8,463	8,107	7,044	12,109	5,065	—
Total	346,395	358,230	374,527	377,700	388,222	16,736	6,214

Net increase in value of imports in 1904, as compared with 1903, £10,522.

The internal trade between the Presidencies shows a total value of goods exchanged or imported of £13,851 as against £16,580 for the year 1903, being a decrease of £2,729.

The figures for the quinquennial period 1900 to 1904 are as follows:—

1900	£25,786
1901	17,594
1902	23,125
1903	16,580
1904	13,851

The following summary of imports gives the aggregate value of the various articles or goods imported during each of the last five years, showing also the increase or decrease in 1904 as compared with the previous year:—

SUMMARY OF IMPORTS.

Articles.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	Increase 1904 over 1903.	Decrease 1904 under 1903.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Live Animals	1,210	2.108	3,450	1,350	3,723	2,373	—
Foodstuffs	140,507	135.623	136,831	146,081	142,249	—	3.832
Drinks	10,192	9,346	12,423	8,935	10,951	2,016	—
Narcotics	3,181	3,659	3,799	3 236	3,837	601	—
Raw Materials..	15.717	17,359	24,064	12,222	18,233	6,011	—
Manufactured Articles, Textile ..	64,677	86,534	92,365	75,475	75,534	59	—
" " Metal ..	24,430	21,546	21,180	28,131	50,556	22,425	—
Other Manufactures	77,319	79,953	79,614	100,926	81,775	—	19,151
	337,233	356,128	373.720	376.356	386,858	33,485	22,983
Coin and Bullion	9,162	2.102	801	1,344	1,364	20	—
Total	346,395	358,230	374,527	377,700	388,222	33,505	22,983

Total increase of £10,522 in 1904.

Exports.

The total value of exports for the year 1904, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, was £335,290 as against £311,469 in 1903, being an increase of £23,821.

The following table gives the total value of exports during each of the last five years, distinguishing the countries to which the various articles were exported, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1904 as compared with 1903:—

SUMMARY OF EXPORTS.

Countries to which Exported.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	Increase 1904 over 1903.	Decrease 1904 under 1903.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	61.673	60.374	78.292	67,178	79,256	12,078	—
British Colonies	45,547	48,071	129 611	152,075	175,458	23 383	—
United States of America	154,121	183.696	92.617	74,467	61.851	—	12,616
Other Foreign Countries	17,679	15,203	17,315	17.749	18,725	976	—
Total	279,020	307 344	317,835	311,469	335,290	36,437	12,616

The following tabular statement shows the value of the principal exports during the last five years, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1904 as compared with 1903:—

Principal Exports.

Articles of Export.		1900.		1901.		1902.		1903		1904.		Increase 1904 over 1903.		Decrease 1904 under 1903.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£		£		£		£		£		£		£
Sugar ...	Tons	15,384	157,737	21,990	198,769	30,339	176,691	25,020	170,695	24,667	211,026	—	40,331	353	—
Molasses	Puns.	6,142	22,853	7,055	15,808	10,891	12,388	9,501	32,447	8,133	17,806	—	—	1,368	14,641
Rum ...	Galls.	15,552	1,003	53,248	2,817	82,296	2,774	16,435	611	20,523	764	4,088	153	—	—
Coffee ...	Lbs.	5,957	207	5,306	170	4,404	106	3,659	92	1,298	28	—	—	2,361	64
Cocoa ...	Lbs.	1,036,173	24,285	976,952	22,898	1,332,024	28,442	970,732	20,730	1,087,751	20,980	117,019	250	—	—
Limes and Juice.	Lime	—	32,277	—	33,517	—	47,824	—	24,608	—	35,943	—	11,335	—	—
Total ...		—	238,362	—	273,479	—	268,220	—	249,183	—	286,547	—	52,069	—	14,705

The following table shows the export of sugar from each Presidency during the last ten years :—

Presidency.	1893.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	7,219	15,100	12,744	6,928	10,041	7,603	9,091	12,596	10,471	11,940
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	18,894	14,804	14,435	12,387	11,943	7,451	12,133	16,597	13,490	12,167
Dominica	844	844	565	339	278	107	152	148	214	129
Montserrat	631	1,672	810	411	553	223	579	996	845	429
Virgin Islands ..	4	1	1	—	—	—	35	2	—	2
Total	27,592	32,421	28,555	20,065	22,815	15,384	21,990	30,339	25,020	24,667

Return of values of raw cotton exported during the years 1903 and 1904 :—

—	1903.	1904.
	£	£
Antigua	28	1,358
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	1,144	2,908
Montserrat ...	1,486	1,380
Total	2,658	5,646

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There is in Dominica one sulphur mine at Soufrière, and there are mines containing molybdenum and copper (at present unworked) in Virgin Gorda, one of the Virgin Islands group. Phosphates are found in the islands of Redonda and Barbuda.

Manufactures.

Sugar is the principal manufacture of the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis, and in the latter Presidency the manufacture of rum is of some importance.

Lime juice is manufactured in Dominica and Montserrat.

Fisheries.

There are no organised fisheries.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANIC STATIONS.

The period under review (April 1st, 1904, to March 31st, 1905) has been one of considerable agricultural activity; unfortunately it has also been one of drought which has had a most depressing effect in some quarters.

Sugar Industry.

During this period the price of sugar has increased in an abnormal manner, chiefly owing to increased consumption, coupled with a short crop of beet sugar due to drought in Europe.

In Antigua Bendals Sugar Factory manufactured its first crop with the aid of the machinery which had been added to improve its sugar-making equipment. The improvements consisted in a new mill and engine, a triple effect evaporator, new centrifugals, &c. The result was highly successful, an economy of some 25 per cent. of cane being effected, and the cost of manufacture decreased. These successful results have led to further improvements, in that about three miles of tramway, for mule haulage, have been laid down on this property, and further improvements will probably follow.

The Antigua Central Factory Company's new factory at Gunthorpes has been erected, and work has begun very successfully. This factory, which is capable of making 30 tons of sugar a day, is worked on co-operative lines in conjunction with eight sugar estates, which are now connected with the factory by almost six miles of railway, using steam locomotives. The progress of work at the factory is being watched with the keenest interest, not only in Antigua, but in all the islands where muscovado sugar-making still persists.

These factories are under obligation to the Government to purchase, if tendered, a certain quantity of peasant-grown canes—Bendals, 1,500 tons; Gunthorpes, 4,500 tons—on a sliding scale of prices based on the price of sugar, but in no case is the price to be less than 7*s.* 6*d.* per ton. The prices paid in 1904 at Bendals ranged from 8*s.* 2*d.* to 10*s.* 2*d.* per ton.

During the season 1904 there first came into operation the contract entered into by the owners of certain muscovado sugar estates in Nevis to purchase canes from the peasantry on a sliding scale based on the price of sugar, but in no case paying less than 6*s.* per ton, the sliding scale in this case being lower than that in Antigua, as the results have to be calculated in terms of muscovado sugar. The operation of this contract in Nevis has been very beneficial; it came into operation at a very critical time, and materially improved the situation both for the proprietors and the peasantry.

The cultivation of varieties of sugar cane other than the Bourbon is still continued throughout the sugar-growing districts of the Colony, with the result that diseases have been kept satisfactorily in check—a most gratifying circumstance when the distressing conditions of ten years ago are remembered.

The experiments with sugar canes conducted by the Imperial Department of Agriculture are watched with interest and participated in by the planters; new and improved varieties are being selected, tested, and introduced into cultivation. The manurial experiments of the Department have been very useful as leading to considerable economy and to precision in methods of working.

The season 1904 was not a propitious one for sugar. Most parts of the Colony experienced a severe drought so that the sugar crops of many estates were very small. A few were more favoured, and made fair crops.

Cotton Industry.

This industry has made considerable progress in many of the islands. In 1903-4 cotton was grown in a tentative manner over a considerable area, while in St. Kitts and Montserrat the cultivation was carried on on a somewhat large scale. The results were somewhat variable, but were such as to lead to a considerable extension of the industry, so that in the latter part of 1904 it was estimated that the following acreage was under cultivation in Sea Island cotton:—Antigua and Barbuda, 500 acres; St. Kitts, 1,000 acres; Nevis, 1,050 acres; Anguilla, 300 acres; Montserrat, 500 acres. Future developments will largely depend upon the prices realised.

In Antigua there is a ginnery with three gins, the necessary baling presses, and a disintegrator for crushing the cotton seed. The motive-power is a 9 h.p. oil engine. This has been largely provided by the British Cotton Growing Association, and has been run by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. In St. Kitts there are three ginneries, two of which are due to private enterprise; the third has been furnished by the British Cotton Growing Association. In Nevis there is one ginnery, having three gins, driven by an oil engine, and a small ginnery worked by horse power. The former is partly assisted by the British Cotton Growing Association. In Montserrat there are three ginneries, two due to private enterprise, and one assisted by the British Cotton Growing Association. In Anguilla there is a ginnery with two gins, driven by an oil engine; this is provided by the British Cotton Growing Association under agreement with a private individual. In Tortola there is a gin driven by an aermotor; these were placed in the hands of the Imperial Department of Agriculture by the British Cotton Growing Association.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture has been at great pains to afford assistance in every branch of the industry, promising seeds, assisting to combat pests and diseases, affording information and advice at every stage. This, coupled with the enterprise of cotton growers, has enabled a real and business-like attempt to be made to produce cotton of the first quality. In Dominica the cultivation of limes and cocoa is steadily increasing. A growing trade in fresh fruit, particularly in oranges and limes, is springing up. The exports of the Island, which is now in a flourishing condition, are steadily growing. Improved means of communication—by steamer around the coast and by improvements in the roads—greatly facilitate the development of the country. The lime industry of Montserrat is once more well established.

The small pioneer cacao plantation in Nevis makes satisfactory progress, and will probably be the forerunner of other similar enterprises.

In the Virgin Islands the cotton industry has chiefly been taken up in Virgin Gorda and Anegada. More sugar was made last year. Seedling canes are being grown at the Experimental Station and distributed.

(D.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

During the year under review 1,900 acres of Crown land were sold to new settlers in the Island of Dominica, and 900 acres in small lots to peasants.

The fertile valleys of the interior of Dominica, now rendered accessible by the "Imperial Road," are suitable for nearly every sub-tropical product and especially for cocoa.

The value of land varies in accordance with its suitability for sugar cane or other produce.

In Dominica Crown lands can be purchased at 10*s*. per acre. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane land varies from £4 to £8 per acre.

In Antigua there are many thousands of acres of land, suitable for the culture of cotton, which may be obtained on easy terms.

(E.) Shipping.

The following table shows the total tonnage of both steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1904, distinguishing between British and foreign vessels:—

Summary showing Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared.

—	British.						Foreign.					
	Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.			Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.		
	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.
Antigua	272,318	270,766	543,084	5,162	5,162	10,324	35,198	35,198	70,396	816	601	1,417
St. Kitts	226,237	226,237	452,474	6,543	6,483	13,026	15,638	15,638	31,276	4,725	4,725	9,450
Nevis	39,006	39,006	78,012	1,143	1,284	2,427	—	—	—	134	134	268
Anguilla	—	—	—	1,683	1,683	3,366	—	—	—	25	25	50
Domi	266,149	266,149	532,298	3,616	3,616	7,232	5,523	5,523	11,046	2,100	2,100	4,200
Mon	86,735	186,735	373,470	5,432	5,350	10,782	332	332	664	720	720	1,440
Vir .	—	—	—	6,107	6,120	12,227	—	—	—	395	389	784
Total	990,445	988,893	1,979,338	29,686	29,698	59,384	56,691	56,691	113,382	8,915	8,694	17,609

Comparing the above figures with those for 1903, there is an increase of 281,638 tons in steam vessels, and a decrease of 3,705 tons in sailing vessels.

The following table shows the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in each Presidency during each of the last five years, including both steam and sailing vessels, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1904 as compared with 1903:—

Presidency.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	Increase 1904 over 1903.	Decrease 1904 under 1903.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	451,592	492,489	516,108	514,846	625,221	110,375	—
St. Kitts	523,213	548,215	575,972	558,168	590,349	32,181	—
Dominica	467.686	477.976	494,988	510,452	554,776	44,324	—
Montserrat	198,730	265,302	285,706	295,117	386 356	91,239	—
Virgin Islands ..	12,076	11,886	12,774	13,197	13,011	—	186
Total of Colony	1,653,297	1,795,868	1,885 548	1,891,780	2,169,713	278,119	186

III.—LEGISLATION.

The General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands was in session from the 5th February to the 8th February inclusive, during which time ten Acts were passed, the most important of which are:—

Act No. 4 of 1904, entitled "An Act to regulate advances in aid of cotton industry."

This Act makes provisions for advances at a rate not exceeding £2 an acre to cotton growers in the Colony out of the sum of £5,000 provided under the joint guarantee of the Government and the British Cotton Growing Association for the purpose of developing the industry.

Act No. 6 of 1904, entitled "An Act to prohibit the practice of certain vulgar frauds commonly known as obeah and other pretended supernatural or occult practices in this Colony."

The practice of "obeah," or witchcraft, had reached such alarming proportions that it became necessary to pass an Act on the lines of the Jamaica Law dealing with the subject. The Act has been a complete success in suppressing a vile superstition.

Act No. 10 of 1904, entitled "An Act to repeal the Turtle Protection Act, 1891."

It was found impracticable to protect from foreign fishermen the turtle which our own fishermen were forbidden to catch, and as all attempts to secure the acquiescence of other nationalities in restrictive measures had failed, this Colony was merely depriving itself of turtle for the benefit of the adjacent foreign islands.

Ten Ordinances were passed during the year by the Legislative Council of Antigua.

Ordinance No. 4 of 1904 makes provision for the importation of volatile petroleum free of Customs duties if imported for use in scientific or technical work or for use as fuel or in oil engines.

Ordinance No. 6 of 1904 consolidates and amends the Barbuda Management and General Tax Ordinance, 1901, and the Ordinances amending the same.

Ordinance No. 7 of 1904 provides for the formation of a Defence Reserve Force.

Ordinance No. 10 of 1904 repeals the Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1903.

The principal changes brought about by the passing of this Ordinance are:—

(1) The establishment of a fixed rate of 13 per cent. on all textile manufactures instead of three different *ad valorem* rates imposed under the repealed Ordinance of 1903.

(2) The better classification of articles. The principal increases in duty are:—Bitters from 2*s*. 8*d*. to 3*s*. per dozen reputed pints; corn and oats from 4*d*. to 6*d*. per bushel; matches from 4*d*. per gross boxes to 1*s*.

The Legislative Council of St. Christopher and Nevis passed seven Ordinances during the year, none of which call for any remark.

In Dominica twelve Ordinances were passed.

No. 1 of 1904 provides for the reduction of export duty on essential oils.

Ordinance No. 5 of 1904 regulates the carriage of passengers by sea.

Ordinance No. 9 of 1904 provides for the fumigation of plants imported into the Presidency.

Ordinances Nos. 10 and 11 provide for the establishment of a "Defence Force" and the formation of a "Defence Reserve," and repeal similar Ordinances passed in the year 1903.

In Montserrat four Ordinances were passed during the year. Ordinance No. 1, shortly entitled "The Marriage Ordinance, 1904," was disallowed by His Majesty.

Four Ordinances were made by the Governor for the Virgin Islands. None of these call for special mention.

The publication of a new and revised edition of the laws of the Colony is receiving attention.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The number of children on the rolls of the Government and State-aided primary schools for the year 1904-5 was 26,854 as against 26,317 for the year 1903-4. The average attendance was 12,591 as against 12,352 for the previous year.

The following table shows the number on the roll, the average attendance, school fees, Government grant, and voluntary contributions during the last five years:—

—	1900.	1901-2.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.
Number on roll	24,974	23,273	25,329	26,317	26,854
Average attendance ...	11,009	11,257	11,985	12,352	12,591
	£	£	£	£	£
School fees	129	98	91	99	44
Government grant	6,181	6,255	6,347	6,375	6,245
Voluntary contributions ...	369	686	488	418	417

Agricultural Instruction.

Lectures on agricultural matters are given by the officers of the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

Science classes in chemistry, physics, and agriculture are held by the Science Master of the Antigua Grammar School. A course of lectures on tropical hygiene for elementary school teachers was also given during the year.

(B.) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The following table gives particulars of the secondary education schools of the Colony:—

Name.	On Roll.	Average Attendance.	Grant.
			£
Antigua Grammar School	67	65	250*
St. Kitts Grammar School	33	29	200
Antigua Girls' High School	33	31	125†
Dominica Grammar School	34	29	352
Spring Gardens Female Training College, Antigua.	14	14	150

* £50 for scholarships. † £25 for scholarships.

(C.) INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL, OR AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

The number of boys at Skerretts Training School on the 1st January, 1904, was 88; 13 boys were received during the year and 60 discharged, leaving a total of 41 boys remaining in the school on the 31st December, 1904.

The number was made up as follows:—Antigua, 27; St. Kitts, 9; Nevis, 1; Montserrat, 1; Dominica, 3.

The health of the boys was very good.

The farm which was formerly attached to the school has been transferred to Scotts Hill, and is now under the control of the Department of Agriculture. Most of the stock have been transferred to Barbuda, only a few stud animals remaining at Scotts Hill.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

The following table shows in a summarised form the number of patients admitted during the year, the number discharged, and the number of deaths which took place:—

Hospitals.	Number in Hospital on 1st January, 1904	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua	176	1,681	716	617	51	275
Cunningham (St. Kitts)	114	1,030	657	193	66	115
Nevis	45	133	79	28	5	33
Dominica	55	569	458	54	6	52
Montserrat (Chateau)	56	45	17	8	6	21
„ **(Hospital)**	5	39	26	10	3	3

(B.) LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

The following table gives the statistics for the lunatic and leper asylums:—

Asylum.	Number in Asylum on 1st January, 1904.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Rat Island	63	51	14	25*	—	11
Convalescent Asylum...	50	28	9	—	12	7

* Transferred to Convalescent Asylum.

The buildings at Skerretts lately used as a training school for boys are being converted into a central lunatic asylum which will provide ample accommodation for all lunatics.

(C.) LEPER ASYLUMS.

There are three leper asylums in the Colony—two in Antigua (one at Rat Island for males, and the other at Keelings Point for females), and one at Fort Charles, St. Kitts.

In Antigua there were 30 lepers in the asylums at the beginning of the year, 15 were admitted during the year, and four died.

In St. Kitts there were 62 lepers at the beginning of the year, ten were admitted during the year, and four died.

The total cases treated in these asylums for the last ten years is as follows:—

Year.	Antigua.	St. Kitts.
1895	35	73
1896	35	74
1897	34	61
1898	39	71
1899	44	76
1900	46	73
1901	44	71
1902	37	63
1903	40	71
1904	30	62

From the above figures it will be seen that the number of inmates in the asylums during the year 1904 shows a decrease of 8·4 and 7·5, respectively, under the average for the last ten years.

(D.) POOR HOUSE.

The number of inmates in the Antigua Poor House on the 1st January, 1904, was 107 (38 males and 49 females); 47 inmates were admitted during the year, and 48 were discharged.

The number of persons receiving out-door relief was 635, the total amount distributed being £415.

(E.) SAVINGS BANK.

The number of depositors and the amount to their credit on the 31st December, 1904, are given in the table below:—

Place.	No.	Amount.
		£
Antigua	1,773	41,029
St. Kitts	473	10,424
Nevis	61	2,243
Dominica	442	7,512
Montserrat	181	3,118
	2,930	£64,326

The following table shows the number of depositors, the amounts deposited and withdrawn, in the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Deposited.	Withdrawn.
		£	£
1900	2,429	23,586	23,763
1901	2,516	23,669	21,330
1902	2,857	21,560	22,719
1903	2,731	21,443	22,252
1904	2,930	22,195	21,390

The total amount of invested funds is £66,415.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The armed force of the Leeward Islands numbered on the 1st of January, 1904, a total strength of 181 officers and men, viz.:—1 inspector-general, 4 inspectors, 2 sergeant-majors, 174 other non-commissioned officers and men.

Of these 1 inspector, 1 sergeant-major, and 58 other non-commissioned officers and men were stationed in Antigua, including 1 corporal in Barbuda; 1 inspector, 1 sub-inspector, and 60 non-commissioned officers and men in St. Kitts-Nevis;

1 inspector and 34 non-commissioned officers and men in Dominica; 1 sergeant-major and 20 non-commissioned officers and men in Montserrat; and 1 second and 1 third class private in the Virgin Islands. The men are armed with Martini-Enfield rifles.

(B.) PRISONS.

The total number of persons committed to prison in the several gaols of the Colony during the year 1904 was 1,668 (885 males, 737 females, and 46 juveniles).

The total number of prisoners received during the year at the Central Prison, Antigua, was 299 males and 221 females.

Thirty-four males and 17 females were received from the other Presidencies, as follows:—

Presidency.	Males.	Females.	Total.
St. Kitts-Nevis	13	7	20
Dominica	18	9	27
Montserrat...	1	—	1
Virgin Islands	2	1	3
Total	34	17	51

The number of committals from Antigua during the year was 469 (265 males and 204 females).

The prisoners were employed in the usual duties of the prison, such as cooking for prisoners, baking bread for the hospital, poor-house, lunatic and leper asylums, Skerretts' School, and the prison, making and mending clothing and bedding for the prison and Skerretts' School. Also in quarrying, stone breaking, smithy work, masonry, and carpentry.

Considerable progress was made in the construction of a drain from the old hospital, through Dickenson Bay Street, to the sea.

The total cost of each prisoner was £18 5*s.* 9*d*.

Two male prisoners died during the year—one from valvular heart disease, and the other from chronic diarrhœa.

The general health of the prisoners was fairly good, there being few cases of serious illness.

The following table gives the number of cases treated by the Prison Surgeon during the year, from which it will be seen that diseases of the gastro-intestinal tract were the most prominent:—

Diseases.	Males.	Females.
Skin diseases	7	2
Gastro-intestinal diseases	94	24
Lung disease	22	3
Heart disease	2	—
Apoplexy and epilepsy	—	3
Debility	16	1
Eye diseases	3	1
Genito-urinary diseases	14	6
Rheumatism and neuralgia	47	7
Fevers, malarial	19	6
Abscesses and ulcers	5	2
Hydrocele	3	—
Hernia	2	—
Bright's disease	1	—
Slight injuries and ailments	39	9
Malingering	18	1

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The following table gives the total number of offences reported to the police during each of the last five years, together with convictions and acquittals in each year:—

Year.	Offences reported.	Convicted.	Acquitted, died awaiting trial, or *nolle prosequi* entered.
1900	13,160	7,855	5,763
1901	14,391	7,493	6,795
1902	13,385	6,719	6,530
1903	13,385	6,700	6,176
1904	13,862	7,660	4,318

Of the offences reported 3,911 were offences against the person, 851 for prædial larceny, 1,432 for offences against property (other than prædial larceny), and the remaining 7,668 comprise all other offences.

Summary convictions were recorded against 7,603 persons in the Magistrates' Court, the number of convictions in the Superior Courts amounting to 57.

4,295 persons were acquitted in the Magistrates' Courts and 16 in the Superior Courts, a *nolle prosequi* was entered in five cases, and two prisoners died while awaiting trial.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The last census was taken in 1901 when the total population was returned at 127,434.

There were 4,631 births and 3,104 deaths during the year.

Of the births, 1,815 were legitimate, and 2,816, or 60·80 per cent., illegitimate.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health during the year was satisfactory. There were no epidemics of a serious nature. A very large proportion of the deaths occurring in the hospital in Antigua are attributable to poverty. Owing to the severe drought in Antigua the crop of ground provisions was exceedingly short, and this had its effect upon the health of the labouring classes and tended to swell the death-rate.

Owing to the energetic action of the Country Board of Health the sanitation of the villages in Antigua has improved in a marked degree.

(C.) CLIMATE.

Rainfall.

The average rainfall for 1904 on 70 stations in Antigua was 37·01 inches, as against 43·68 inches for the previous year.

The average rainfall for 31 years, from 1874 to 1904 inclusive, was 46·03 inches, so that the rainfall for 1904 was 9·02 inches below the average.

The highest rainfall recorded was 57·34 inches, and the lowest 22·85 inches.

The United States Weather Bureau in St. Kitts, from which the returns are obtained for that Presidency, only kept its office open from the 4th July to the 30th November, 1904.

In Dominica the mean rainfall for the year was 102·48 inches. The highest rainfall recorded was 218·07 inches, and the lowest 46·08 inches.

In Montserrat the greatest rainfall recorded was 67·66 inches, and the lowest 26·85 inches.

Temperature.

The maximum temperature recorded in Antigua was 89° on June 13th, 14th, and 20th, and on November the 4th, 7th, and 25th.

The minimum temperature was 63° on January the 2nd and 4th.

In Montserrat the highest temperature was 91°, and the lowest 65°.

Wind.

The prevailing direction of the wind is east, with variations to north-east and east-north-east.

The greatest number of miles run in 24 hours was 370, and was recorded in Antigua on the 1st and 2nd July.

Five earthquake shocks were recorded.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

(A.) Post Office.

The following tables give the revenue and expenditure for postal services for the last five years:—

Receipts.

Year.	Sale of Stamps, &c.	Commission on Money Orders.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1900	3,162	559	50	3,771
1901	3,454	507	46	4,007
1902	5,255	406	48	5,779
1903	7,196	515	51	7,762
1904	5,362	516	47	5,925

Expenditure.

Year.	Salaries, &c.	Conveyance of Mails.	Total.
	£	£	£
1900	3,035	2,263	5,298
1901	2,890	2,563	5,453
1902	2,672	2,734	5,406
1903	4,093	2,742	6,835
1904	2,669	2,311	4,980

The net profit on the working for the year was £946 as compared with £926 for the previous year.

The following table gives the statistics of postal matter sent to and from the Colony during the last five years:—

Year.	Letters and Cards received and sent.	Books and Papers received and sent.	Parcels received and sent.
1900...	452,137	168,820	7,079
1901...	572,314	175,215	7,811
1902...	613,761	173,447	8,707
1903...	604,573	196,667	8,998
1904...	662,516	200,872	10,112

Comparing the figures for 1904 with those for 1903 we find an increase of 57,943 letters and cards received and sent, 4,205 books and papers received and sent, and 1,114 parcels received and sent.

The traffic in pictorial post-cards is responsible for the large increase in letters and cards.

The total value of money orders issued in the Colony was £23,258 as against £22,620 in 1903, and the value of orders cashed £19,888 as against £22,435.

(B.) TELEGRAPHS.

The subsidies paid to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company amount to £1,400 per annum, of which Antigua pays £500, St. Kitts-Nevis £500, and Dominica £400.

There is no telegraphic communication with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands.

(C.) TELEPHONES.

There are telephone services in the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica.

In Antigua there are 150 instruments in use, and 260 miles of wire; in St. Kitts, 87 instruments and 253 miles of wire; in Dominica, 92 instruments and 280 miles of wire.

The receipts and expenditure for the year under review are as follows:—

Presidency.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
Antigua	746	711
St. Kitts... ...	408	456
Dominica ...	306	1,396

This is the first occasion on which a surplus has been shown on the working of the Antigua telephone service.

The expenditure in Dominica is somewhat large owing to the extension of the system to the country districts.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES.

Defence Forces exist in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis.

In Antigua the force was established in 1897, and consists at present of the St. John's Mounted Infantry numbering 36 officers and men.

The expenditure for 1904-5 was £296.

The Infantry Company was disbanded on the 15th November, 1904, and a Defence Reserve established, under Ordinance No. 7 of 1904, numbering 25 members at present.

The St. Kitts-Nevis Defence Force consists of mounted infantry and infantry numbering 68 officers and men, and was established in 1896.

The expenditure for 1904-5 was £409.

A Defence Reserve Force was established in Dominica during the year 1904, and a similar force at Montserrat.

The arms for all the forces are on loan from the Imperial Government.

Constabulary or semi-military Colonial Force. (*See* Police.)

X.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Sir Gerald Strickland, K.C.M.G., proceeded to England on leave on the 3rd May, 1904, and during this leave he was appointed Governor of Tasmania.

His Honour Charles T. Cox, C.M.G., Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, administered the general Government of the Colony of the Leeward Islands from the 3rd of May until the 9th of September, when he left for the Colony of British Guiana, where he had been appointed Government Secretary.

On the departure of Mr. Cox, and until the arrival of Sir C. C. Knollys, K.C.M.G., the Government of the Colony devolved upon His Honour H. Hesketh Bell, C.M.G., Administrator of the Presidency of Dominica.

Sir C. C. Knollys was appointed Governor of the Leeward Islands, and assumed the Government of the Colony on the 28th September, 1904.

During the period that Mr. Cox was administering the Government of the Leeward Islands, Mr. F. S. Wigley acted as Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis.

From the 8th April until the 16th August, 1904, Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, C.M.G., Administrator of Dominica, was on leave, and Mr. W. H. Porter administered the Government of that Presidency.

On the 12th October, 1904, Mr., now Sir, Robert Bromley, Bart., was appointed Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, and assumed duty on the 26th of that month.

The Secretary of State approved of the appointment of Dr. Robert Stephen Earl as Commissioner and Medical Officer of the Presidency of the Virgin Islands.

His Honour J. S. Udal, Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands, was absent on leave from the 1st July, 1904, until the 7th November, 1904.

Mr. Justice Danavall, Puisne Judge, acted as Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands from the 30th September, 1904, until the 7th November, 1904, during the absence on leave of His Honour J. S. Udal.

Mr. S. R. Pemberton, Assistant to the Attorney-General at Dominica, acted as Puisne Judge during that time, while Mr. F. B. B. Shand acted as Assistant to the Attorney-General at Dominica.

His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to approve of the appointment of His Honour F. H. Watkins, Commissioner of Montserrat, to be a Companion of the Imperial Service Order.

His Majesty the King was also pleased to approve of the appointment of the Honourable Francis Watts, D.Sc., F.I.C., F.C.S., Superintendent of Agriculture and Government Analytical and Agricultural Chemist for the Leeward Islands, to be a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.

The Honourables Sir D. Morris, K.C.M.G., F. S. Wigley and B. S. Davis were appointed members of the Executive Council of the Leeward Islands.

His Excellency Sir C. C. Knollys, K.C.M.G., visited all the Presidencies of the Colony before the close of the year 1904-5.

On the 24th March, 1905, the Honourable E. St. John Branch, Colonial Secretary and Attorney-General, went on leave, and Mr. E. B. Jarvis, Assistant Colonial Secretary, and the Honourable S. R. Pemberton, Assistant to the Attorney-General at Dominica, were *appointed to* act as *Colonial* Secretary and Attorney-General respectively.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Antigua.

There is little which calls for remark in reviewing the affairs of the Presidency of Antigua for the year 1904. The sugar crop amounted to 11,940 tons of sugar and 5,249 puncheons of molasses, as against 10,471 tons of sugar and 7,015 puncheons of molasses for the previous year. The question of irrigation is a matter which demands consideration, as the prospects of the Island year after year are blighted by the frequently recurring droughts. The Island with its fertile soil and good labour supply is pre-eminently suited for the cultivation of sugar, and with a satisfactory system of irrigation the crops would be largely increased.

The cultivation of cotton is being steadily increased. In 1903 the export of raw cotton was 4 bales and 7 bags, valued at £28; in 1904, 155 bales of the value of £1,358 were exported; while up to the 30th September, 1905, 277 bales have been exported, valued at £2,770. There are some 5,000 acres of land admirably adapted for the cultivation of cotton which are obtainable on easy terms.

The Antigua Central Sugar Factory at Gunthorpes, to which allusion has been made, was opened on the 20th December, 1904. The Bendals Central Factory was opened on the 2nd May, 1904. These factories mark an epoch in the history of the Island, and on their success depends to a large extent the future of the sugar industry of the Presidency.

Twelve villages are now supplied with wholesome water from Wallings' Reservoir, also several public institutions.

His Lordship Bishop Mather, late Bishop of this diocese, at his own expense, erected a very substantial and commodious schoolroom, and the thanks of the community are due to His Lordship for his munificent gift. The schoolroom which is used for entertainments takes the place of a town hall.

Barbuda.

During the year £100 was placed at the disposal of the Government by the British Cotton Growing Association to be applied in establishing a cotton industry in the Island. With this sum 28 acres of cotton were planted, and the results have proved very satisfactory, a net profit of £84 4*s.* 2*d.* being made on the first year's working. The cultivation is being extended, and the industry gives promise of being of some importance.

The rainfall was 38·18 inches.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The export and import trade of this Presidency during the last year has very considerably increased, and present events disclose a satisfactory financial position. The total revenue receipts amounted to £1,218 above the estimated amount, and there was a net surplus of £842 on the year's working.

The total surplus on the 31st March, 1905, amounted to £5,847.

The sugar crop, on the success of which the whole community is dependent, was a good one, and, owing to the substantial preference given to us by the Dominion Government, found a ready market in Canada, where it realised on the average £9 per ton net (muscovado).

During 1904 Cotton Loans to the amount of £740 (St. Kitts, £260; Nevis, £380; Anguilla, £100) were advanced from the sum of £5,000 placed at the disposal of the Colony by the Imperial Government and the British Cotton Growing Association, the advances being regulated by the Leeward Islands Cotton Industry Aid Act. The opening of the old main road near the sea from Charlestown to Whitehall in Nevis is having the effect of bringing many acres of excellent land into cotton cultivation.

The new industry is also in a flourishing condition in Anguilla. 55,625 lbs. of Sea Island cotton were shipped from the Presidency to the United Kingdom and realised an average price of 1*s.* 2*d.* per lb.

St. Kitts was in December last year for the first time made a centre for the Cambridge Local Examinations; of the twelve candidates eight were successful.

The recently passed "Obeah Act" has been a decided success in this Presidency, especially in Nevis—the hotbed of the craft; and the enforcement of its provisions has done much towards the suppression of a vile superstition, and has also been instrumental in weakening the faith of even the most ignorant classes in the power of the "Obeah-man."

Among the public works carried out during the year were the following:—

Another 100 feet of wall was built to protect the Bay Road, Basseterre, against the incursion of the sea, and a large quantity of sand lodged in College Street during the heavy rains of the past five years was cleared away and thrown in the pools of stagnant water on the Pond Pasture.

The pier of Charlestown, Nevis, was practically rebuilt.

A new wing was built on the Head Master's house at the Grammar School.

The Sea Defence Scheme at Dieppe Bay was completed, and a piece of wall along the sea front on the Old Road, Bay Road, was built.

The recently acquired cemetery in Nevis was enclosed with a wire fence.

The Treasury buildings in Nevis were thoroughly repaired, and the iron roof of the Treasury Buildings in Basseterre was relaid and new gutters put down.

The historical fortifications at Brimstone Hill were cleared of bush and scrub, and made attractive to tourists and sightseers.

DOMINICA.

The Presidency of Dominica is once more to be congratulated on the satisfactory condition of its trade and finances.

The year 1904 will be remembered as one of recovery from adverse conditions which had marked the previous season; the effects of the gale and of the disease which attacked the lime plantations in 1903 were gradually made good, and the output of the Island's staple products increased on a satisfactory scale.

The exports of cocoa were 80,000 lbs. in excess of those of 1903, while limes, lime juice, and its by-products realised nearly £29,000 as against £20,500 in the preceding year. The total exports during the year were valued at £63,000; this amount, however, includes bullion and goods in transit; some £10,000 worth of whale oil transhipped at Prince Rupert's Bay, and £6,000 worth of bullion fictitiously swelled the total of the exports.

The imports amounted to some £91,000, and the remarkable difference between the worth of imports and exports may largely be ascribed to the local expenditure of extraneous capital brought to the Island by new settlers.

The year 1904-5 closed with surplus funds in hand amounting to about £5,000.

The telephone system was greatly extended. The Windward and Northern districts were placed in connection with Roseau, and the Leeward coast lines much improved.

A substantial iron bridge was placed across the Massacre River, and was opened to traffic on the 20th June last.

An isolation hospital for quarantine purposes has been erected at Morne Daniel, and the public buildings at Portsmouth were thoroughly repaired.

The Imperial Road is fully justifying its object, and no less than ten large estates, apart from those in existence before 1900, are being developed along this road.

The fertile valleys of the interior are showing their great suitability for the cultivation of cocoa in particular, and the experimental cultivations of oranges and rubber, which are being carried on in the highlands of the interior, are giving promise of considerable success.

1,900 acres of Crown land were purchased during the year under review by new settlers, the sales of small lots to peasants amounting to some 900 acres.

MONTSERRAT.

In 1904 the imports were valued at £20,885 as against £21,279 in 1903, while the exports reached £21,640 as against £16,424 in 1903, the largest amount since 1897.

During the past year the cultivation of cotton was considerably extended, but, in consequence of severe drought and the appearance of the black boll disease, the value of lint was only £1,380 as against £1,486 in 1903.

In spite of discouragements inevitable at the introduction of a new industry cotton seems to have taken a permanent place in the chief exports of the Island. For the first time since the disastrous hurricane of 1899 the cultivation of limes has attained its normal dimensions. 137,635 gallons of raw, and 4,620 of concentrated, juice, valued at £6,650 and £840, respectively, were shipped. Fresh, or as they are locally called "green," limes, to the value of £313, were also exported. There is no doubt that as soon as fresh limes are as well known as bananas in the United Kingdom, they will prove formidable competitors to lemons. Apart from their medicinal properties, limes make the most palatable temperance drink as yet discovered.

Sugar, inclusive of molasses, once more shows a heavy fall in quantity and value, as may be seen from the table below which includes internal trade in the Colony:—

Year.	Tons.	Value.
		£
1902	1,078	5,506
1903	869	5,238
1904	514	3,821

When it is considered that in 1894 the exports of sugar and molasses were valued at £15,930 and £1,198, respectively, it is evident that the cultivation is being to a great extent abandoned. Such a change is to be regretted, because the manufacture of sugar provides more employment than any other tropical product. The substitution of cotton for sugar has caused a great reduction in the wage fund and monetary circulation of the Island. On the other hand the small owners and labourers are paying increased attention to the rearing of stock, large and small, and to the production of vegetables for the markets of the neighbouring islands. As illustrative of the transition stage through which the Island is passing the table below may be of interest:—

Comparative Table of the Value of Sugar and certain other Exports, 1895–1904.

Year.	Sugar and Molasses.	Cattle.	Small Stock and Poultry.	Fruit and Vegetables.
	£	£	£	£
1895 ...	5,269	677	260	387
1896 ...	14,968	804	193	634
1897 ...	5,849	951	181	480
1898 ...	3,089	1,362	227	218
1899 ...	4,932	1,485	261	275
1900 ...	2,261	1,861	365	80
1901 ...	5,527	1,693	621	283
1902 ...	5,506	2,007	474	601
1903 ...	5,238	1,618	685	833
1904 ...	3,821	2,390	708	727

The introduction of improved breeds and varieties is engaging the earnest attention of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and it is certain that the further development of the Island will depend to a large extend upon what are termed minor industries. Debarred by its natural configuration from being suitable for central factories for sugar, Montserrat has, however, when improved methods of cultivation are understood and practised by the small owners, every chance of becoming a southern Bermuda. But until better steam facilities are afforded and telegraphic communication established the openings for disposing of the produce will necessarily be restricted to the limited markets of the other islands.

Papain has become, in more senses than one, a drug in the market, and it will be a long time before the local stocks can be worked off, and the cultivation of arrowroot, owing to unremunerative prices, is being abandoned.

During the year few public works were undertaken. The Treasury and Post Office building have been so constructed that the two departments are now in one long room which gives greater facilities for supervision. A powder magazine and a boat-house were built.

The Island was in a very peaceful condition, and there was a complete absence of serious crime and disease. On several occasions the local gaol and hospital were empty, and there was only one prisoner from Montserrat in the Central Prison at Antigua. After the hurricane the public roads and buildings were placed in thorough repair, and, unless some unforeseen disaster occurs, a comparatively small expenditure will be required to keep them in a satisfactory condition. Again, as the people are now well disposed and illicit distillation has been stamped out, it has been found possible since 1900 to reduce the police from 41 to 17, which also means a large reduction of expenditure. Under these circumstances, it is a matter for congratulation that after a decade of sad and unfortunate experiences it is considered feasible to take into practical consideration the subject of effecting financial equilibrium in Montserrat, and of releasing the Presidency from the demoralising dependance on external aid. For some years efforts have been made towards this end, as the following table of deficits will show:—

Year.	Annual Deficit to the nearest Pound.
	£
1895	3,381
1896	957
1897	2,010
1898	5,737
1899	9,818
1900	2,933
1901–2	4,116
1902–3	3,623
1903–4	1,687
1904–5	1,610

It is hoped that with slightly increased taxation and reduction of expenditure that the finances will be within a measurable distance of equalisation.

VIRGIN ISLANDS

An Act was passed by the General Legislative Council constituting the Virgin Islands a separate circuit for judicial purposes. For the previous three years the Virgin Islands had been included within the St. Kitts circuit. This arrangement was, however, found to be inconvenient and expensive, the cost to the Virgin Islands for the year being no less than £107 12*s.* 6*d.*

There is otherwise little to record. The satisfactory increase of revenue reported last year has in most cases been maintained and in a few cases exceeded.

The receipts from the Post Office show an increase of £539, due to a new issue of stamps in July, 1904.

A grant was made during the year to a fresh elementary school at West End. In some parts of the Presidency the children unfortunately receive no instruction. At East End there are said to be no less than 150 children who would be bound by the existing law to attend school if it were possible to provide one. If finances permit it is hoped that it will be possible to take further steps in this matter next year. The effect of an elementary school on the first generation may not be very apparent; the work must necessarily be a slow one, and each generation should merely be regarded as a stepping stone for the next.

A cotton-ginning factory worked by an aermotor was erected by the Agricultural Department during the year at a cost of £154.

Some progress has been made in inducing the peasants to cultivate cotton. Progress must necessarily be rather slow.

The population of the Virgin Islands is about 5,000, and is largely a seafaring one; the whole of the land is in the possession of negro-peasant proprietors who never feel the pinch of poverty. The women do little work, the men can always get employment in connection with the shipping at St. Thomas, or earn good wages on the sugar estates in San Domingo. The negro here has no white planters to imitate, he leads a very secluded isolated life; it is extremely difficult to induce him to plant new crops or adopt new methods of cultivation. Under these circumstances the work of the Agricultural Department must be very largely educational and immediate economic results must not be expected.

No less than 826 cattle and 2,500 goats were shipped, nearly all to butchers in St. Thomas; the market is unfortunately a very uncertain one, as it is dependent on the shipping in the harbour. It is to be regretted that the inhabitants have no other opportunity to dispose of their animals. Schooners from the southern islands in search of stock would probably find a visit to the Virgin Islands to their advantage.

A new Tariff Ordinance was passed last March, lumber and all materials required for building new boats being placed on the free list. The boats built in the Virgin Islands are admittedly the best in the Leeward Islands, probably the West Indies. The local builders complained that they were unable to compete with the builders in the neighbouring Danish Islands where such materials were admitted duty free. As this is the only industry carried on by the inhabitants, with the exception of agriculture and fishing, it should receive encouragement.

The Secretary of State directed several years ago that when circumstances permitted the water supply of Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda, should be improved. A well was successfully sunk last January which yields an abundant supply of good water.

EDWARD B. JARVIS,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
Leeward Islands.

13th October, 1905.

JAN 13 1906

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
448	St. Helena	1904
449	Falkland Islands	"
450	Weihaiwei	"
451	Hong Kong	"
452	Gambia	"
453	Gibraltar...	"
454	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
455	British Honduras	"
456	Seychelles	"
457	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
458	Straits Settlements	"
459	Southern Nigeria	"
460	Sierra Leone	"
461	British Solomon Islands	1903–1905
462	Malta	1904–1905
463	Grenada	1904
464	St. Vincent	"
465	Gold Coast	1904–1905
466	Barbados	"
467	Uganda	"
468	Somaliland	"
469	Trinidad and Tobago	1904
470	Lagos	"
471	Bahamas	1904–1905
472	British Central Africa	1903–1905
473	Mauritius	1904
474	Fiji	"
475	British East Africa Protectorate	1904–1905
476	Northern Nigeria	1904
477	British Guiana	1904–1905

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies... ...	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone...	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Islands	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.
31	Northern Nigeria	Cotton, &c.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

BUREAU OF MANUFACTURES
RECEIVED
JUN 24 1907
DEP'T OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

BUREAU OF TRADE RELATIONS
RECEIVED
JUN 15 1907
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

No. 518.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1905-6.

(For Report for 1904–5, *see* No. 478.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
March, 1907.

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By transfer
DEC 19 1908

No. 518.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1904-5, *see* No. 478.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Antigua,
3rd January, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the report by Mr. E. St. John Branch, the Colonial Secretary, on the Blue Book of the Leeward Islands Colony for the year 1905-6.

I have, &c.,

BICKHAM SWEET-ESCOTT,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Elgin, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

1125 Wt 24282 3/07 D & S 5 27150

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1905-6.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year 1905-6 (exclusive of grants-in-aid from the Imperial Government amounting to £7,017 14*s.* 4*d.*) was £137,055, showing a net increase of £8,133 3*s.* 10*d.*, over that for the previous financial year.

The following table shows the amount of revenue collected in each Presidency during the last five years, as also the increase or decrease in 1905-6, as compared with 1904-5:—

Presidency.	1901-2.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	Increase 1905-6 over 1904-5.	Decrease 1905-6 under 1904-5.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ...	42,067	46,395	43,812	44,295	48,798	4,503	—
St. Kitts-Nevis	43,793	42,778	39,127	43,905	47,145	3,240	—
Dominica ...	29,598	31,045	31,443	30,982	31,200	218	—
Montserrat ...	6,196	6,294	7,599	7,237	7,433	196	—
Virgin Islands	1,796	1,848	2,167	2,503	2,478	—	25
Total ...	123,450	128,355	124,148	128,922	137,054	8,157	25

Net increase of revenue in 1905-6, as compared with 1904-5, £8,133 3*s.* 10*d.*

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue collected in each Presidency of the Colony in the years 1904-5 and 1905-6:—

Comparative Statement of Revenue collected in each Presidency of the Colony in the Years 1904-5 *and* 1905-6.

Heads of Revenue.	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Montserrat.
	1904-5.	1905-6.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1904-5.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs—							
Import Duties on other than alcoholic liquors.	19,364 18 11	18,715 0 10	18,242 18 6	19,449 17 1	12,215 19 11	12,316 9 10	3,212 7 2
Import Duties on alcoholic liquor	4,600 0 0	5,502 1 5	3,049 9 3	3,511 1 8	1,323 7 8	2,491 15 10	1,648 12 9
Export Duty	—	—	3,292 16 11	2,996 10 2	1,777 7 0	1,664 6 4	—
	23,964 18 11	24,217 2 3	24,585 4 8	25,957 8 11	15,316 14 7	16,472 12 0	4,860 19 11
Port, Harbour Dues, &c.	3,199 19 1	2,746 2 2	3,881 9 4	3,811 19 4	2,118 14 7	2,048 2 1	186 13 8
Internal Revenue—							
Excise	2,215 11 6	920 5 1	3,811 3 2	4,215 7 0	4,301 15 2	3,381 7 3	—
Taxes	4,184 2 9	4,332 6 8	3,739 1 2	3,639 12 10	3,068 16 5	3,350 13 7	763 19 0
Licenses	1,358 16 2	1,334 5 2	2,205 19 0	2,420 12 0	1,761 3 9	1,871 15 1	285 16 8
Rates	—	—	453 19 0	518 19 4	—	—	60 18 3
Miscellaneous	307 1 8	318 11 6	451 18 0	395 10 0	779 7 3	661 15 9	100 13 6
	8,065 12 1	6,905 8 5	10,662 0 4	11,190 1 2	9,911 2 7	9,265 11 8	1,211 7 5
Fees of Court, &c.	6,139 4 10	11,652 9 2	1,572 2 10	2,695 8 6	1,621 6 2	1,424 14 6	239 7 4
Municipal Rates and Taxes ...	—	—	364 13 3	345 2 6	—	—	—
Post Office, &c.	2,441 15 11	2,615 8 9½	2,053 18 6	2,128 12 9	1,448 17 8	1,579 16 5½	724 1 3½
Lime Industry	—	—	276 6 4	401 19 8	—	—	—
Rents	103 2 0	140 15 5	206 13 7	258 4 5	35 9 3	79 9 1	3 16 1
Interest	21 12 7	36 3 6	110 17 0	156 19 10	119 15 7	118 13 5	—
Miscellaneous	358 8 3	484 11 1	179 14 2	199 5 6	384 18 11	211 11 1	7 16 5
Land Sales	—	—	12 0 0	—	25 5 0	—	3 4 0
	44,294 13 8	48,798 0 9½	43,905 0 0	47,145 2 7	30,982 4 4	31,200 10 3½	7,237 6 1½

Comparative Statement of Revenue—cont.

Heads of Revenue	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.		Total for Colony.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1905–6.	1904–5.	1905–6.	1904–5.	1905–6.	1905–6.	1905–6.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Customs—							
Import Duties on other than alcoholic liquors.	3,035 6 6	502 15 7	573 19 3	53,538 10 1	54,090 13 6	552 3 5	—
Import Duties on alcoholic liquor	1,412 1 8	71 19 4	51 9 9	10,693 19 0	12,968 10 4	2,274 11 4	—
Export Duty	630 11 7	367 4 11	454 18 3	5,437 8 10	5,746 6 4	308 17 6	—
	5,077 19 9	941 19 10	1,080 7 3	69,669 17 11	72,805 10 2	—	—
Ports, Harbour Dues, &c.	263 3 10	35 12 4	47 7 7	9,422 9 0	8,916 15 0	—	505 14 0
Internal Revenue—							
Excise	—	—	—	10,328 9 10	8,516 19 4	—	1,811 10 6
Taxes	724 0 0	352 9 2	350 3 10	12,108 8 6	12,396 16 11	288 8 5	—
Licenses	265 17 2	229 18 6	250 7 6	5,841 14 1	6,142 16 11	301 2 10	—
Rates	62 5 9	—	—	514 17 3	581 5 1	66 7 10	—
Miscellaneous	73 8 11	21 18 3	40 3 9	1,660 18 8	1,489 9 11	—	171 8 9
	1,125 11 10	604 5 11	640 15 1	30,454 8 4	29,127 8 2	—	—
Fees of Court, &c.	227 7 1	117 13 8	132 3 11	9,689 14 10	16,132 3 2	6,442 8 4	—
Municipal Rates and Taxes ...	—	—	—	364 13 3	345 2 6	—	19 10 9
Post Office, &c.	705 1 8	789 5 4	547 18 4	7,457 18 8½	7,576 18 0	118 19 4½	—
Lime Industry	—	—	—	276 6 4	401 19 8	125 3 4	—
Rents	6 19 3	0 18 0	1 18 6	349 18 11	487 6 8	137 7 9	—
Interest	1 8 0	3 0 0	12 16 11	255 5 2	326 1 8	70 16 6	—
Miscellaneous	20 19 2½	9 19 2	14 6 3	940 16 11	930 13 1½	—	10 3 9½
Land Sales	4 16 0	—	0 8 0	40 9 0	5 4 0	—	35 5 0
	7,433 6 7½	2,502 14 3	2,478 1 10	128,921 18 4½	137,055 2 1½	10,686 16 7½	2,553 12 9½

Net increase £8,133 3*s.* 10*d.*

Under the head of "Customs," Antigua shows an increase of £252 3*s.* 4*d.*; St. Kitts-Nevis, £1,372 4*s.* 3*d.*; Montserrat, £216 19*s.* 10*d.*; Dominica, £1,155 17*s.* 5*d.*; and the Virgin Islands, £138 7*s.* 5*d.*

Under the head "Port and Harbour Dues," Antigua shows a decrease of £453 16*s.* 11*d.*, St. Kitts-Nevis of £69 10*s.*, and Dominica of £70 12*s.* 6*d.*, while Montserrat and the Virgin Islands exhibit increases of £76 10*s.* 2*d.* and £11 15*s.* 3*d.*, respectively.

Under the head "Excise," there is an increase of £404 3*s.* 10*d.* in St. Kitts-Nevis, and decreases of £1,295 6*s.* 5*d.* in Antigua, and £920 7*s.* 11*d.* in Dominica.

Under the head "Taxes," increases appear in Antigua of £148 3*s.* 11*d.*, and in Dominica of £281 17*s.* 2*d.*, and decreases in St. Kitts-Nevis of £99 8*s.* 4*d.*, in Montserrat of £39 19*s.*, and £2 5*s.* 4*d.* in the Virgin Islands.

Under the head "Licenses," St. Kitts-Nevis shows an increase of £214 13*s.*, Dominica of £110 11*s.* 4*d.*, and the Virgin Islands of £20 9*s.*, while Antigua and Montserrat show decreases of £24 11*s.* and £19 19*s.* 6*d.*, respectively.

Under the head "Fees of Court," Antigua shows an increase of £5,513 4*s.* 4*d.*, St. Kitts-Nevis of £1,123 5*s.* 8*d.*, and the Virgin Islands of £14 10*s.* 3*d.*, while Dominica and Montserrat show decreases of £196 11*s.* 8*d.* and £12 0*s.* 3*d.*, respectively.

Under "Post Office," there is an increase of £119 for the Colony.

Expenditure.

The total expenditure for the year 1905-6 was £142,215, as against £133,559 for the year 1904-5, showing an increase of £8,656.

The following table shows the expenditure of each Presidency for each of the last five years, as also the increase or decrease in 1905-6 as compared with 1904-5:—

Presidency.	1901–2.	1902–3.	1903–4.	1904–5.	1905–6.	Increase 1905–6 over 1904–5.	Decrease 1905–6 under 1904–5.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ...	48,514	48,992	50,209	48,670	54,383	5,713	—
St. Kitts-Nevis	44,135	43,713	44,782	43,063	44,026	963	—
Dominica ...	28,012	30,419	31,331	31,033	34,187	3,154	—
Montserrat ...	10,812	9,917	9,364	8,361	7,107	—	1,254
Virgin Islands	1,924	1,854	2,342	2,431	2,511	80	—
Total ...	132,897	134,895	138,028	133,558	142,214	9,910	1,254

Net increase of expenditure in 1905-6, as compared with 1904-5, £8,656.

The following is a comparative statement of the expenditure in each Presidency of the Colony in the years 1904-5 and 1905-6:—

Comparative Statement of the Expenditure in each Presidency of the Colony in the Years 1904–5 *and* 1905–6.

	Heads of Expenditure.	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Montserrat.
		1904–5.	1905–6.	1904–5.	1905–6.	1904–5.	1905–6.	1904–5.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Charges on Account of Public Debt	7,169 8 10	6,885 0 1	3,678 19 8	3,688 19 8	3,375 0 0	3,375 0 0	569 19 10
2	Pensions	952 17 0	1,370 8 2	1,379 1 10	1,578 9 2	342 11 7	587 2 9	150 1 1
3	Legislature	75 0 0	75 0 0	—	—	62 12 0	59 12 0	—
4	Island Secretary (Commissioner)	180 2 2	184 3 2	1,096 4 9	955 4 9	1,439 14 11	1,375 19 3	623 14 9
5	Federal Contribution	3,079 9 5	2,971 2 1	3,220 17 9	3,018 0 5	2,303 14 3	2,286 19 7	540 1 5
6	Treasury and Customs	1,505 6 0	1,592 6 10	1,823 9 10	1,884 14 10	2,727 4 1	2,150 15 7	513 0 3
7	Audit	37 14 9	23 3 7	—	—	6 0 0	6 0 0	—
8	Port and Marine	1,425 0 9	1,107 19 0	399 4 0	404 4 0	67 15 11	94 13 4	14 6 1
9	Registrar and Provost Marshal	805 19 10	686 2 10	863 18 7	748 2 2	645 5 1	608 19 6	45 18 11
	Magistrates	903 15 10	920 5 0	1,709 13 3	1,607 3 4	822 16 1	843 10 4	12 0 0
10	Police	3,447 19 3	3,277 0 11	2,919 6 6	2,957 14 10	1,860 13 7	1,815 18 1	1,171 7 6
11	Prisons	2,800 19 4	2,856 12 2	1,006 11 0	1,008 8 2	973 11 1	1,169 13 10	118 16 4
12	Medical	2,059 16 5	2,068 5 4	1,907 1 9	1,968 15 0	1,663 8 8	1,679 7 7	464 19 0
13	Hospitals	7,128 19 11	7,452 9 3	6,860 0 4	6,903 6 10	2,587 17 4	2,643 7 9	905 0 9
14	Education	1,917 2 3	1,915 6 1	2,465 3 8	2,416 12 6	2,601 9 5	2,651 15 7	807 19 3
15	Ecclesiastical	—	—	256 0 0	256 0 0	—	—	458 5 0
16	Board of Health	2,638 2 7	2,604 1 9	1,852 7 4	1,865 2 11	86 8 9	149 17 10	177 5 2
17	Registration and Vaccination	298 4 7	218 3 5	516 5 0	480 13 0	60 5 6	51 10 0	108 12 7
18	Public Market	—	—	36 1 0	35 11 4	—	—	31 16 1
19	Public Library	—	—	60 0 0	60 0 0	75 0 0	75 0 0	50 0 0
20	Laboratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21	Military	288 3 4	532 17 1	413 15 9	759 11 8	89 19 0	204 12 2	91 14 0
22	Miscellaneous	1,503 14 5	1,131 13 8	1,403 3 11	1,411 1 3	2,125 1 2	1,969 11 10	391 16 1
23	Post Office	2,022 15 4	1,415 3 2	1,318 8 7	1,159 14 8	1,110 18 0	897 15 8½	273 12 11
	Telegraphs	500 0 0	500 0 0	512 16 8	511 13 9	400 0 0	400 0 0	—
	Telephones	703 5 10	741 13 11	456 1 3	580 12 8	1,415 14 1	491 9 6	—
23a	Electric Lighting	—	—	—	—	—	174 4 3	—
24	Public Works Department	1,096 4 4	996 14 6	975 2 10	1,095 18 10	663 19 9	667 4 0	15 12 7
25	" Recurrent	3,015 1 6	3,363 19 2	3,396 15 8	3,415 14 11	2,181 15 6	2,305 2 4	650 4 4
26	" Extraordinary	1,316 15 10	2,532 16 6	1,751 17 3	2,821 10 10	1,344 18 7	5,139 10 8	17 16 0
27	Barbuda	583 9 11	567 18 3	—	—	—	—	—
28	Local Department of Agriculture	1,214 18 8	621 14 5	—	—	—	312 1 0	30 6 7
29	Repayment of Loans	—	5,771 0 0	550 0 0	250 0 0	—	—	—
30	Forestry Department	—	—	93 12 6	182 17 2	—	—	—
	from Loan	—	—	140 14 11	—	—	—	—
	Total	48,670 8 1	54,383 0 4	43,062 18 7	44,025 18 8	31,023 14 4	34,186 14 8½	8,361 6 6

Comparative Statement of Expenditure—cont.

	Heads of Expenditure.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.		Total Colony.		Increase.	Decrease.
		1905-6.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1905-6.	1905-6.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Charges on Account of Public Debt	585 9 10	—	—	14,813 8 4	14,534 9 7	—	278 18 9
2	Pensions ..	177 4 4	71 11 6	50 0 8	2,996 3 0	3,763 5 1	767 2 1	—
3	Legislature	—	—	—	127 12 0	134 12 0	7 0 0	—
4	Island Secretary (Commissioner)	620 7 8	541 8 3	528 19 2	3,881 4 10	3,664 14 0	—	216 10 10
5	Federal Contribution	512 1 9	102 2 8	109 9 7	9,246 5 6	8,897 13 5	—	348 12 1
6	Treasury and Customs	486 8 2	354 16 7	379 9 6	6,923 16 9	6,493 14 11	—	430 1 10
7	Audit	—	—	—	43 14 9	29 3 7	—	14 11 2
8	Port and Marine	14 18 10	—	—	1,906 6 9	1,621 15 2	—	284 11 7
9	Registrar and Provost Marshal	39 17 1	112 12 6	9 18 7	2,473 14 11	2,093 0 2	—	380 14 9
	Magistrates	12 0 0	15 14 6	14 11 6	3,464 2 8	3,397 10 2	—	66 12 6
10	Police	1,010 0 2	114 10 11	89 0 1	9,522 17 9	9,149 14 1	—	373 3 8
11	Prisons	122 12 9	120 17 10	112 17 11	5,020 15 7	5,270 4 10	249 9 3	—
12	Medical ..	494 0 7	53 10 3	48 4 9	6,148 16 1	6,258 13 3	109 17 2	—
13	Hospitals..	536 5 2	227 1 11	364 11 3	17,709 0 3	17,900 0 3	191 0 0	—
14	Education	714 14 6	136 7 8	137 4 3	7,928 2 3	7,835 12 11	—	92 9 4
15	Ecclesiastical	446 18 6	—	—	714 5 0	702 18 6	—	11 6 6
16	Board of Health	167 9 6	5 0 0	5 0 0	4,759 3 10	4,791 12 0	32 8 2	—
17	Registration and Vaccination	74 13 8	38 8 10	24 13 4	1,019 16 6	849 13 5	—	170 3 1
18	Public Market ..	34 1 7	—	—	67 17 1	69 12 11	1 15 10	—
19	Public Library ..	10 0 0	—	—	185 0 0	145 0 0	—	40 0 0
20	Laboratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21	Military ..	64 9 6	—	—	883 12 1	1,561 10 5	677 18 4	—
22	Miscellaneous ..	310 0 3	153 4 9	80 17 3	5,577 0 4	4,903 4 3	—	673 16 1
23	Post Office	145 3 9	247 7 11	67 10 3	4,973 2 9	3,685 7 6½	—	1,287 15 2½
	Telegraphs	—	—	—	1,412 16 3	1,411 13 9	—	1 2 11
	Telephones	—	—	—	2,575 1 2	1,813 16 1	—	761 5 1
23a	Electric Lighting	—	—	—	—	174 4 6	174 4 6	—
24	Public Works Department..	16 0 0	—	—	2,750 19 6	2,775 17 4	24 17 10	—
25	" Recurrent ..	455 2 1	48 4 8	60 0 0	9,301 1 8	9,600 4 6	299 2 10	—
26	" Extraordinary	—	88 2 10	429 5 3	4,519 10 6	10,923 3 3	6,403 12 9	—
27	Barbuda ..	—	—	—	583 9 11	567 18 3	—	15 11 8
28	Local Department of Agriculture	56 18 10	—	—	1,245 5 3	990 14 3	—	254 11 0
29	Repayment of Loans	—	—	—	550 0 0	6,021 0 0	5,471 0 0	—
30	Forestry Department	—	—	—	93 12 6	182 17 2	89 4 8	—
	from Loan ..	—	—	—	140 14 11	—	—	140 14 11
	Total ..	7,106 18 6	2,431 3 7	2,511 19 4	133,558 11 1	142,214 11 6½	14,498 13 5	5,842 12 11½

Net increase, £8,656 0*s.* 5½*d.*

The increases in the expenditure amount to £14,498. The largest increases appear under the following heads :—

Number.	Head.	Amount.
		£
2	Pensions	767
3	Legislature	7
11	Prisons	249
12	Medical	110
13	Hospital	191
16	Board of Health	32
18	Public Market	2
21	Military	678
23 (a)	Electric Lighting	174
24	Public Works Department	25
25	Public Works Recurrent	299
26	Public Works Extraordinary	6,404
29	Repayment of Loans	5,471
30	Forestry Department	89
	Total ...	14,498

Decreases in expenditure amount to £5,842 and occur principally under the following heads :—

Number.	Head.	Amount.
		£
1	Public Debt...	279
4	Island Secretary	217
5	Federal Contribution	348
6	Treasury	430
7	Audit...	15
8	Port and Marine	284
9	Registrar and Provost Marshal	381
	Magistrates...	67
10	Police	373
14	Education	92
15	Ecclesiastical	11
17	Registration and Vaccination	170
19	Public Library	40
22	Miscellaneous	674
23	Post Office	1,288
	Telegraphs	1
	Telephones	761
26	Public Works from Loan	140
27	Barbuda	16
28	Local Department of Agriculture...	255
	Total ...	5,842

Briefly reviewed, expenditure in Antigua (including Barbuda) shows an increase of £5,713, in St. Kitts-Nevis an increase of £963, in Dominica an increase of £3,154. in Montserrat a decrease of £1,254, and in the Virgin Islands an increase of £80, compared with that of 1904-5.

(B.) CHANGES IN TAXATION.

There were no important changes in taxation during the year.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1906.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Dominica	468 16 7				
Montserrat	472 8 7		Cash	140 14 5	
Virgin Islands	28 1 2		Crown Agents	482 14 2	
		969 6 4			623 8 7
Land Assurance Fund Deposit ...		2,392 5 0	Antigua	9 9 9	
Canada Money Order Account ...	281 15 2		Kitts-Nevis	267 8 11	
Bermuda Money Order Account ...	191 8 11				276 18 8
		473 4 1	Police Reward Fund	50 3 8	
			P. O. Guarantee Fund	7 11 11	
					57 15 7
			Land Assurance Investment ...		2,000 0 0
			W. M. McDonald		5 4 2
			Drafts and Remittances		227 0 0
			Barbados Money Order Account ...	600 0 0	
			British Guiana " ...	44 8 5	644 8 5
		3,834 15 5			3,834 15 5

Antigua—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1906.

Liabilities.	Amount.			Assets.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Deposits on Account, Money Orders	671	18	0	Advances on Account, Money Orders	88	11	8
" " Botanic Station Account, Seeds.	0	9	1½	" " City Board Account, Roads and Body Ponds.	89	11	6
" " To cover Duties	20	4	3	" " Savings Bank	18	15	0
" " Registrar of Courts ...	218	18	1½	" " Cotton Loans	15	0	0
" " Registrar and Provost Marshal.	16	17	6	" " Purchase of Wire Gauze...	26	4	9
" " Revenue Defence Fund ...	45	15	9	" " Trinidad	26	14	0
" " City Fund	118	2	2	" " Administrator of Unrepresented Estates.	23	3	0
" " Prison Officers' Fine Fund	28	6	3	" " Public Officers Personal ...	3	17	8
" " Barbuda Account	210	12	5	Deposits on Account, Cotton Experiments in Barbuda.	9	8	7
" " Official Receiver Globe Premises.	525	0	0	Balances due by Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis...	124	18	5
Balances due to General Government, Leeward Islands.	9	9	9	" " " Dominica ...	25	6	10
" Drafts and Remittances	21	0	0	" " " Virgin Islands ...	82	7	10
" U.K. Post Office	147	11	4½	London and Westminster Bank Deposits, Public Works.	180	7	0
" Montserrat	72	5	1	Treasurer, Cash Balance	2,595	12	5
" Loan Works Appropriation Account, Wallings.	180	7	0	Crown Agents Current Account	499	18	0
" Unrepresented Estates	348	4	4				
" Escheated Estates	251	19	7				

Antigua—Statement of Assets and Liabilities—cont.

Liabilities.	Amount.	Assets.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balances due to Bankruptcy Estates	162 8 9½		
" Registrar's unclaimed Balances ...	13 10 7		
" Unrepresented Estates Reserve Fund...	34 11 5		
Deposits on Account of Training School, Officers' Fine Fund.	0 1 0		
" " Chemical Control, Sugar Factory..	100 0 0		
" " Skerretts Boys' earnings ...	0 6 1		
	3,197 18 6		
Excess of Assets	611 18 2		
Total	3,809 16 8	Total	3,809 16 8

St. Kitts-Nevis—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31*st March*, 1906—cont.

Liabilities.	Amount.		Assets.	Amount.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Deposits—			Cash—		
To secure Duties	28 7 2		Treasurer's		316 13 10
Revenue Defence Fund	146 6 7		Revenue Officer, Nevis		20 0 6
Provost Marshal	9 4 2		Magistrate, Anguilla...		60 1 3
Escheat Estate	0 16 4		Crown Agents		1,284 10 9
Unrepresented Estates	10 15 1		Deposit at Interest in Colonial Bank		7,000 0 0
" " Reserve Fund ...	1 0 9				

St. Kitts-Nevis—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1906.

Liabilities.	Amount.		Assets.	Amount.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Deposits—*cont.*			Advances—		
Prisoner Officers' Fine Fund	1 11 8		Crown Agents (at Interest)... ...		800 0 0
Registrar of Courts	14 6 5		Personal	74 3 0	
Cotton Loans	116 0 5		Postal Orders	0 3 5	
Town Fund	265 18 9		G. P. O. London	41 16 0	
		594 7 4	Government of British Guiana ...	7 18 11	
Money Order Accounts—			Government of Trinidad	3 11 3	
United Kingdom	254 3 11				127 12 7
Barbados	139 7 7		Money Order Accounts—		
Jamaica	13 16 4		Leeward Islands	270 16 0	
United States	30 18 9		Windward	13 17 0	
Canada	169 10 3		Trinidad	19 6 2	
		607 16 10	British Guiana	4 18 1	
Balance due to—			Bermuda	362 17 7	
Family Remittances		16 13 14			671 14 10
General Government, Leeward Islands ...	267 8 11		Remittances in Transit		600 0 0
Presidencies	220 4 6				
		487 13 5			
Sinking Fund—					
Improvement, Basseterre, 5/1891 ...		75 0 0			
" " 12/1901 ...		91 6 8			
Total Liabilities		1,872 17 7	Total Assets		10,880 13 9
Excess of Assets		9,007 16 2			
		10,880 13 9			10,880 13 9

Dominica.—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1906.

Liabilities.	Amount.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Deposits to be repaid to—						
Sundry Money Order Accounts	1,676	6	7			
Registrar and Provost Marshal's Deposit Account.	20	5	3½			
Deposits to secure Duties ...	14	5	9			
Plaintiffs' Costs Deposit Account	0	10	0			
Prison Officers' Fine Fund ...	18	18	7			
Titles to Land Assurance Fund	14	0	5			
Revenue Defence Fund... ...	46	14	5			
Estate to Rev. Berthome ...	0	8	0			
Registrar of Shipping Fees ...	0	9	0			
Registrar of Courts	—					
Deposit Account...	511	6	3½	2,303	4	4
Balances due to—						
His Majesty's Government ...	36	8	2			
Crown Agents (Advances) ...	2,200	0	0			
Other Presidencies—						
Antigua	25	6	10			
General Post Office, London ...	357	15	6			
Dominica Savings Bank ...	255	0	0	2,874	10	6
				5,177	14	10
Excess of Assets...				2,258	12	10
Total				£7,436	7	8

Assets.	Amount.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cash	—			1,382	11	11
Investments by Crown Agents ...	—			4,000	0	0
Remittances in Transit	—			117	5	6
Advances—						
Sundry Money Order Accounts	8	17	2			
Other authorised advances ...	936	4	6	945	1	8
Balances due by—						
Crown Lands Fund	226	7	5			
Crown Agents on Current Account.	203	11	7			
General Government Leeward Islands.	468	16	7			
Other Presidencies—						
St. Kitts-Nevis	80	3	3			
Montserrat	6	19	5			
Virgin Islands	5	10	4	991	8	7
Total				£7,436	7	8

Montserrat—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1906.

Liabilities.	Amount.			Assets.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Deposits—				Advances—			
Provost Marshal	3	10	7	R. Hannam	10	0	0
Escheated Estates	9	13	6	Wm. Robson	1	1	0
Unrepresented Estates	3	17	9	A. C. Musgrave	0	0	10
To secure Duties	8	14	11	Savings Bank	350	0	0
Registrar	1	13	4	United Kingdom Post Office Account	20	16	4
Savings Bank	5	2	2	Crown Agents	92	11	2
Presidency of Dominica	6	19	5	General Government	466	7	5
				Presidency of Antigua...	72	5	2
Money Order Accounts—				" " St. Kitts-Nevis...	13	19	4
United Kingdom	74	14	4	Postal Orders	0	0	6½
United States	151	12	10	Cash	910	11	5½
Canada	322	16	8	Drafts and Remittances	78	10	0
Barbados	47	16	4				
Jamaica	39	8	0	Money Order Accounts—			
Leeward Islands	142	0	0	United States	3	3	8
	817	19	10	Trinidad	83	17	8
				British Guiana	2	18	4
Excess of Assets...	1,318	15	7	Bermuda	8	19	0
				Windward Islands	21	13	6
Total	2,136	15	5	Total	2,136	15	5

Virgin Islands—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31*st March*, 1906.

Liabilities.	Amount.		Assets.	Amount	
Advances—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Advances—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Government of Antigua	82 7 10		General Government	28 1 2	
" Dominica	5 10 4		Government of St. Kitts-Nevis ...	1 3 6	
H.M. Postmaster-General	85 12 3				29 4 8
Deposits—		173 10 5	Cotton Account	—	112 14 6
Unrepresented Estates Account ...	9 11 4		Colonial Bank—		
Provost Marshal's Account ...	1 4 11		Antigua	300 0 0	
Commissioner's Account	1 0 0		St. Thomas	6 19 11	
Agricultural Department Produce Account.	32 0 8		Crown Agents	174 14 5	
Government House Purchase Account.	200 0 0		Treasurer	128 17 1	610 11 5
Prize Money Account	0 9 1		British Guiana Money Order Account.		6 3 0
Agricultural Show Account ...	0 11 2	244 17 2			
Agricultural Department, Grant in aid Account.	—	60 8 2			
Drafts and Remittances Account ...	—	4 7 3			
Sundry Money Order Accounts ...	—	217 1 0			
		700 4 0			
Excess of Assets		58 9 7			
Total		758 13 7	Total		758 13 7

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounts to £278,000.

The debt of the Colony has been reduced by the following amounts during the year:—

St. John's Savings Bank Loan, Antigua	£200 0 0
Immigration Loan, Antigua	5,171 0 0

and £600 Debentures, secured under Act No. 13 of 1888, purchased and held by the Crown Agents.

The following table gives a list of the loans raised at different times and the amount standing to the credit of their respective sinking funds:—

Loans.	Amount.	Amount to Credit of Sinking Fund.
	£	£
Antigua—		
In Aid of Revenue borrowed from St. John's Savings Bank.	8,940*	—
Wallings Reservoir...	14,000	2,612
Additional Waterworks	12,200	7,575
Public Works and Harbour Improvements.	100,000	19,803
St. Kitts-Nevis—		
Basseterre Protection	3,900	978
Waterworks (Sandy Point and Dieppe Bay).	8,000	2,091
Waterworks, Nevis	8,850	4,027
Public Works	23,000	
Public Works, 1891...	23,500	3,813
Improvement of Basseterre ...	9,000†	310
Dominica—		
Public Works and Revenue in Aid	5,000	1,899
Roads and Bridges, 1880 and 1890	30,000	5,738
Roads and Bridges, 1895	30,000	3,706
Montserrat—		
Waterworks, 1883	1,100	315
Waterworks, 1893	10,000	1,325
	287,490	54,192
Less amount repaid	9,490	
	278,000	

* Amount repaid £4,240. † Amount repaid £5,250

(E.) CURRENCY.

There is nothing calling for remark under this head.

(F.) MUNICIPALITIES.

The revenue of the St. John's City Board, established under Antigua Ordinance No. 5 of 1898, amounted to £4,656, as compared with £4,502 for last year.

The expenditure for the same period amounted to £4,538, leaving a net surplus of £118 on the year's working. The Board receives a grant of £2,100 per annum. From this should be deducted the sum of £848 paid as interest and sinking fund on the Water Works Loans of 1885 and 1890.

Town Boards also exist in Basseterre (St. Kitts) and Roseau (Dominica).

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports.

The total value of imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1905, inclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £403,481, as against £388,222 in 1904, being an increase of £15,259.

The following table shows the total value of imports for the last five years, distinguishing the countries from which the imports came, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1905 as compared with the previous year:—

Country whence Imported.	1901.	1902	1903.	1904.	1905.	Increase 1905 over 1904.	Decrease 1905 under 1904.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	160,827	165,958	168,700	175,546	177,119	1,573	—
British Colonies	51,441	56,941	51,716	56,541	62,019	5,478	—
United States of America	137,496	143,521	150,240	144,026	151,968	7,942	—
Other Foreign Countries	8,466	8,107	7,044	12,109	12,375	266	—
Total	358,230	374,527	377,700	388,222	403,481	15,259	—

Net increase in value of imports in 1905, as compared with 1904, £15,259.

The internal trade between the Presidencies shows a total value of goods exchanged or imported of £17,325, as against £13,851 for the year 1904, being an increase of £3,474.

The figures for the quinquennial period, 1901 to 1905, are as follows:—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1901	17,594
1902	23,125
1903	16,580
1904	13,851
1905	17,325

The following summary of imports gives the aggregate value of the various articles or goods imported during each of the last five years, showing also the increase or decrease in 1905 as compared with the previous year:—

Articles.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	Increase 1905 over 1904.	Decrease 1905 under 1904.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Live Animals	2,108	3,450	1,350	3,723	2,427	—	1,296
Foodstuffs	135,623	136,831	146,081	142,249	161,659	19,410	—
Drinks	9,346	12,423	8,935	10,951	11,751	800	—
Narcotics	3,659	3,799	3,236	3,837	3,484	—	353
Raw Materials	17,359	24,064	12,222	18,233	10,833	—	7,400
Manufactured Articles, Textile ..	86,534	92,365	75,475	75,534	36,573	11,039	—
" " Metal ..	21,546	21,180	28,131	50,556	88,829	—	20,727
Other Manufactures	79,953	79,614	100,926	81,775	95,625	13,850	—
	356,128	373,726	376,356	286,858	402,181	45,099	29,776
Coin and Bullion	2,102	801	1,344	1,364	1,300	—	64
Total	358,230	374,527	377,700	388,222	403,481	45,099	29,840

Total increase of £15,259 in 1905.

Exports.

The total value of exports for the year 1905, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, was £447,994, as against £335,290 in 1904, being an increase of £112,704.

The following table gives the total value of exports during each of the last five years, distinguishing the countries to which the various articles were exported, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1905 as compared with 1904:—

Countries to which Exported.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	Increase 1905 over 1904.	Decrease 1905 under 1904.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	60.374	78.292	67.178	79,256	122.970	43,714	—
British Colonies	48,071	129,611	152,075	175.458	226.593	51,135	—
United States of America	183,696	92.617	74,467	61.851	40,239	39,467	—
Other Foreign Countries	15,203	17,315	17,749	18,725	58,192	—	21,612
Total	307 344	317,835	311,469	335,290	447,994	134,316	21,612

The following tabular statement shows the value of the principal exports during the last five years, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1905 as compared with 1904:—

Principal Exports.

Articles of Export.		1901.		1902.		1903		1904.		1905.		Increase 1905 over 1904.		Decrease 1905 under 1904.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£		£		£		£		£		£		£
Sugar ...	Tons	21,990	198,769	30,339	176,691	25,020	170,695	24,667	211,026	20,414	191,771	—	—	4,253	19,255
Molasses	Puns.	7,055	15,808	10,891	12,383	9,501	32,447	8,133	17,806	7,223	28,063	—	10,257	910	—
Rum ...	Galls.	53,248	2,317	82,296	2,774	16,435	611	20,523	764	26,654	1,345	6,131	581	—	—
Coffee ...	Lb.	5,306	170	4,404	106	3,659	92	1,298	28	2,003	50	705	22	—	—
Cocoa ...	Lb.	976,952	22,898	1,332,024	28,442	970,782	20,730	1,087,751	20,980	1,299,579	25,056	211,828	4,076	—	—
Limes and Lime Juice.		—	33,517	—	47,824	—	24,608	—	35,943	—	44,557	—	8,614	—	—
Total ...		—	273,479	—	268,220	—	249,183	—	286,547	—	290,842	—	23,550	—	19,255

The following table shows the export of sugar from each Presidency during the last ten years:—

Presidency.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	15,100	12,744	6,928	10,041	7,603	9,091	12,596	10,471	11,940	7,776
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	14,804	14,435	12,387	11,943	7,451	12,133	16,597	13,490	12,167	12,312
Dominica	844	565	339	278	107	152	148	214	129	181
Montserrat	1,672	810	411	553	223	579	996	845	429	134
Virgin Islands ..	1	1	—	—	—	35	2	—	2	11
Total	32,421	28,555	20,065	22,815	15,384	21,990	30,339	25,020	24,667	20,414

The following is a return of cotton exported from the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands, during the years 1903, 1904, 1905, and 1906:—

Presidency.	Year.	No. of Bales or Bags.	Weight.
Antigua... ...	1903	1 bag	151 lb.
	1904	155 bales	27,847 „
	1905	304 „	54,720 „
	1906	512 „	99,948 „
St. Kitts-Nevis	1903		22,880 „
	1904	324 bales 71 bags	86,748 „
	1905	1,183 bales	163,778 „
	1906	1,208 „	298,519 „
Montserrat	1903	59 bales 311 bags	35,657 „
	1904	77 bales 16 bags	27,606 „
	1905	169½ bales 1 bag	82,312 „
	1906	227 bales	86,698 „
Virgin Islands	1903	—	—
	1904	—	1,300 „
	1905	21 bales	4,100 „
	1906	33 „ 3 bags	6,975 „

(B.) Mines, Manufactures, and Fisheries.

There is in Dominica one sulphur mine at Souffrière, and phosphates are found in the Islands of Redonda and Barbuda.

There is an interesting old mine in Virgin Gorda (one of the Virgin Islands group), which consists of several " stringers " of chalcopyrite carrying copper and possibly gold. Molybdenum exists, and grey copper ore has been mined.

Manufactures.

Sugar is the principal manufacture of the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts, and in the latter Presidency the manufacture of rum is of some importance.

Lime juice is manufactured in Dominica and Montserrat, and in both these islands a strong attempt is being made to still further improve the prospects of the lime industry by the manufacture of citrate of lime.

Fisheries.

There are no organised fisheries. In 1904 the legislation which protected turtle and turtle eggs during certain months in the year was repealed, as it was found impossible to enforce the law against the fishermen of other nationalities, and the French Colonies especially were unwilling to enter into reciprocal arrangements having for their object the protection of turtle on the lines obtaining in this Colony.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANIC STATIONS.

In Antigua it is estimated that there are 17,700 acres of uncultivated land, in St. Kitts-Nevis, excluding Anguilla, 19,800 acres, in Montserrat 8,700 acres; in Dominica there are about 177,000 acres uncultivated.

Sugar Industry.

This constitutes the principal industry of Antigua and St. Kitts; in Nevis and Montserrat the industry is in a decadent condition.

In Antigua, owing to drought, the crop was small; St. Kitts was not, however, so severely affected. The average annual export of sugar of Antigua and St. Kitts is about the same.

In Antigua the Central Factories at Gunthorpes and Bendals have continued operations. These institutions are bound by the contract under which they received Imperial grants to assist in their construction, to purchase, if tendered, peasants' canes to the amount of 1,500 tons per annum in the case of Bendals, and 4,000 tons per annum in the case of Gunthorpes. The prices paid vary on a sliding scale with the market price of grey crystal sugar, and in no case can it fall below 7*s.* 6*d.* per ton of cane. The effect of this has been to considerably increase the area cultivated by peasant farmers.

Experimental cultivation of sugar cane has been continued under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in Antigua and St. Kitts. The object of these experiments is to ascertain, by cultivation of a number of varieties of seedling canes, which canes are most likely to produce increases in the yield of sugar per acre and at the same time are most resistant to disease. The effect of these experiments has been to eradicate cane disease in the Leeward Islands to a large extent.

Manurial experiments are also conducted with a view to ascertain the manurial requirements of the sugar cane. In all there are ten sugar experiment stations in Antigua and nine in St. Kitts; the results obtained are followed with keen interest by planters.

Cotton Industry.

The extension of the cultivation of Sea Island cotton has been very marked in the Leeward Islands during the past four years. It is estimated that for the coming crop 1,800 acres are under cultivation in Antigua, 1,100 in Montserrat, and 4,000 in St. Kitts-Nevis and Anguilla. In the Virgin Islands the cultivation of cotton is gradually being extended. In Dominica its cultivation has made practically no headway, it being found that the climatic conditions are unsuitable to its successful growth.

In Nevis and Montserrat it would appear that cotton is gradually taking the place of cane as the staple crop of these Islands.

The extension of the cultivation of the crop has been largely assisted by the British Cotton Growing Association, which has done much, in the way of providing money, machinery, and advice, for the advancement of the industry.

The efforts of the Association have been largely directed through the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

Lime Industry.

In Montserrat this industry is now firmly re-established; in Dominica the industry continues to advance; large shipments of raw and concentrated juice are now made and there is also an appreciable export in green and pickled limes. The manufacture of citrate of lime in place of concentrated lime juice is now attracting attention, and shipments of this product from both Dominica and Montserrat have been made.

Cacao.

In Dominica the cacao industry continues to make solid progress. For some years it has been the principal export of Dominica. The Imperial Department of Agriculture has under its control a large number of experimental plots for the cultivation of cacao in various districts of the Island, designed with the object of ascertaining the effect of various manures and different methods of cultivation on the crop. These experiments are followed with considerable interest by planters.

In Nevis and St. Kitts small pioneer plantations of cacao continue to make favourable progress.

Onion Industry.

Onions continue to form an article of export from Antigua: in 1905, 1,078 crates were exported, valued at £233 18*s.* 10*d.* In the other islands their cultivation is being gradually extended.

Fruit Industry.

There is a considerable export trade in fresh fruit from Dominica, particularly in limes and oranges. The pineapple industry in Antigua is at present in a somewhat decadent condition owing to the ravages of a disease, probably bacterial in origin, which causes a destruction of the interior portion of the fruit.

Tobacco.

The experimental cultivation of tobacco continues to be pursued in St. Kitts. The results have so far been promising, and point to the possibility of eventually establishing a cigar tobacco industry in that island.

Rubber.

The cultivation of Castilloa rubber is being experimentally extended in all the islands. In Dominica there are a large number of trees. Some of these growing at the Botanic Station have recently been tapped, and the resulting rubber sent to England for valuation and report. The reports obtained were favourable in all cases.

Botanic Stations.

Botanic and Experiment Stations are maintained in every Presidency, at which are conducted experiments with plants with the object of improving agricultural conditions by the introduction of superior varieties of existing crops, and also of introducing new plants with a view to the establishment of fresh industries.

Agricultural Shows.

Shows of agricultural produce are now held annually in each Presidency, under the auspices of the Imperial Department of

Agriculture and the local agricultural societies, at which prizes are awarded by the Department of the Local Government for the best exhibits of agricultural produce in a large number of classes. The shows are having a marked effect in improving the quality of produce.

Publications.

"The West Indian Bulletin" or Journal of the Imperial Department of Agriculture is issued quarterly. It contains scientific and general papers of agricultural interest and is the official means of publication of many of the results obtained in the experimental work of the Department.

"The Agricultural News," issued fortnightly, affords useful information and advice on current topics of agricultural interest. Numerous reports and pamphlets are also issued on various subjects of agricultural importance, all of which give detailed information on the questions with which they deal.

In all the foregoing developments and efforts at advancement the Imperial Department of Agriculture has played a leading part. The Botanic and Experiment Stations in each Presidency have conducted a great number of experiments with numerous crops, including sugar, cotton, cacao, limes, and a large number of others, particulars of which are to be found in the Agricultural News and the various Departmental Reports.

(D.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

During the year under review 1,781 acres of Crown land were sold in the Island of Dominica, and of these 347 acres were sold in small lots to peasants.

The interior of Dominica has been opened up by the "Imperial Road," but roads are now required through the fertile valleys that lead down to the sea, and which are suitable for nearly every sub-tropical product and especially cocoa and limes.

The value of land in the Colony varies in accordance with its suitability for sugar cane or other products. In Dominica Crown lands can be purchased at 10*s*. 0*d*. an acre. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane land varies from £4 to £8 per acre.

In Antigua there are many thousands of acres of land suitable for the cultivation of cotton, which may be obtained on easy terms.

(E.) SHIPPING.

The following table shows the total tonnage of both steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1905, distinguishing between British and foreign vessels:—

Summary showing Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared.

—	British.						Foreign.					
	Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.			Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.		
	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.
Antigua	271,649	273,201	554,850	5,128	5,152	10,280	1,542	1,542	3,084	934	1,149	2,083
St. Kitts	212,764	212,764	425,528	4,045	4,150	8,195	11,951	11,951	23,902	5,682	5,750	11,432
Nevis	61,576	61,576	123,152	450	444	894	—	—	—	345	277	622
Anguilla	—	—	—	1,432	1,476	2,908	—	—	—	180	180	360
Dominica	286,603	286,603	573,206	3,968	3,909	7,877	—	—	—	1,583	1,583	3,166
Montserrat	203,200	203,200	406,400	3,973	3,922	7,895	—	—	—	1,437	1,401	2,838
Virgin Islands	—	—	—	6,125	6,138	12,263	—	—	—	767	770	1,537
Total	1,035,792	1,037,344	2,073,136	25,121	25,191	50,312	13,493	13,493	26,986	10,928	11,110	22,038

Comparing the above figures with those for 1904, there is an increase of 7,402 tons in steam vessels, and a decrease of 4,643 tons in sailing vessels.

The following table shows the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in each Presidency during each of the last five years, including both steam and sailing vessels, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1905 as compared with 1904:—

Presidency.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	Increase 1905 over 1904.	Decrease 1905 under 1904.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	492,489	516,108	514,846	625,221	560,297	—	64,924
St. Kitts	518,215	575,972	558,168	590,349	596,993	6,644	—
Dominica	477.976	494,988	510,452	554,776	584,249	29,473	—
Montserrat	285,302	285,706	295,117	386.356	417,133	30,777	—
Virgin Islands ..	11,886	12,774	13.197	13,011	13,800	789	—
Total	1,795,868	1,885 548	1,891,780	2,169,713	2,172,472	67,683	64,924

III.—LEGISLATION.

The General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands was in session from the 11th March, 1905, to the 14th March, inclusive.

Eleven Acts were passed, the most important of which are No. 5 of 1905, entitled "An Act to make provision for giving effect to the recommendations of a Conference made with regard to quarantine in the West Indies."

This Act substitutes for the antiquated quarantine system modern methods of observation, surveillance, and disinfection, and it is hoped that it will, while retaining necessary safeguards, put an end to the irritating restrictions imposed on passengers and on the landing of cargo by the Quarantine Acts which it repealed.

Act No. 9 of 1905, entitled "An Act to amend the Supreme Court Amendment Act, 1903."

This Act restores the Virgin Islands Circuit Court. It was found that the expense and inconvenience experienced in sending cases from the Virgin Islands to be tried at the Circuit Court in St. Kitts were too great to be allowed to continue.

Act No. 11 of 1905, entitled "An Act to further amend the Registration and Records Act, 1881."

This Act provides for the presentation in duplicate of documents intended for registration, and puts an end to the old practice of copying into books in the Registrar's Office documents presented for registration.

Six Ordinances were passed during the year by the Legislative Council of Antigua, but none of them call for any special mention.

The Legislative Council of St. Christopher-Nevis passed eight Ordinances during the year. The most important of these are:—

No. 1 of 1905, entitled "An Ordinance to regulate the local traffic in cotton."

This Ordinance imposes restrictions on the buying and selling of seed cotton and lint cotton. Action in this direction was found to be necessary in consequence of the prevalence of petty larcenies of cotton and the difficulty of detecting them.

Ordinance No. 4 of 1905, entitled "An Ordinance to regulate the importation, sale, and possession of arms and ammunition."

The Legislative Council of Dominica passed nine Ordinances during the year. The most important of these is Ordinance No. 8 of 1905, entitled "An Ordinance to make provision for the prevention of theft of agricultural produce."

In this Ordinance, "agricultural produce" has a wide meaning assigned to it, and purchasers and sellers of protected produce are bound down to methods which it is hoped will result in checking the spread of prædial larceny. This species of crime had become so rife as to considerably curtail the extension of certain minor industries.

The Legislative Council of Montserrat passed nine Ordinances during the year, none of which call for any remark.

Six Ordinances were made by the Governor for the Virgin Islands.

The most important of these is No. 4 of 1905, entitled "An Ordinance to establish a savings bank in the Virgin Islands."

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The number of children on the rolls of the Government and State-aided primary schools for the year 1905-6 was 26,326, as against 26,854 for the year 1904-5. The average attendance was 11,801, as against 12,591 for the previous year.

In 1890, the year of the establishment of compulsory education, there were only 12,000 children on the roll, with an average attendance of 7,000.

The following table shows the number on the roll, the average attendance, school fees, Government grant, and voluntary contributions during the last five years:—

—	1901–2.	1902–3.	1903–4.	1904–5.	1905–6.
Number on roll	23,273	25,329	26,317	26,854	26,326
Average attendance ...	11,257	11,985	12,352	12,591	11,801
	£	£	£	£	£
School fees	98	91	99	44	33
Government grant	6,255	6,347	6,375	6,245	6,362
Voluntary contributions ...	686	488	418	417	400

(B.) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The following is a list of the secondary education schools of the Colony with their respective grants:—

Name.	Grant. £	s.	d.
Antigua Grammar School*	256	10	0
St. Kitts Grammar School	200	0	0
Antigua Girls' High School†	125	0	0
Dominica Grammar School	352	0	0
Spring Gardens Female Training College, Antigua ...	150	0	0

* £50 for scholarships. † £25 for scholarships.

(C.) INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

There is one industrial school in the Colony, viz., Skerrett's Training School at Antigua, to which boys are sent from all the Presidencies.

The number of boys at the beginning of the year was 41; 8 were admitted during the year, and 12 were discharged.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Lessons and lectures in the secondary grade of agricultural instruction are given by the Science Master at the Antigua Grammar School, who is provided by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. These comprise, (i.) lessons in chemistry, physics, and agriculture at the Antigua Grammar School; (ii.) lessons in systematic botany and plant physiology at the Girls' High School; (iii.) lectures at the Female Training College on botany and tropical hygiene; (iv.) lectures to the elementary school teachers of the Island on tropical hygiene. Every boy at the Grammar School takes at least one of the science subjects, so that about 70 boys attend the classes. The numbers in the classes from the Girls' High School are 5 and 15, respectively. From the Female Training College, 15 students attend the lectures. Most of them will take up posts as teachers in the elementary schools later on. About 15 elementary school teachers avail themselves of the opportunity to attend the lectures on tropical hygiene. Agricultural instruction in the primary schools is given by these teachers, and by the students of the Training College at a later stage, this being rendered possible by the provision of the lectures in the secondary grade, as particularised above.

DOMINICA AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL.

The School is maintained by the Imperial Department of Agriculture; it was opened December 1st, 1900. The officer in charge received his training at the Royal Gardens, Kew, and is assisted by a schoolmaster.

The object of the school is to afford sons of peasants and small planters definite technical and practical training in agriculture, with a view to the boys subsequently occupying positions on estates. The boys, in addition to agricultural teaching, receive a general elementary education; the boys reside at the school. The curriculum includes a large amount of outdoor work, and a number of experiment plots are maintained in connection with the school.

A certain amount of stock is maintained at the school. The number of boys at present on the books is 19; the full complement of boys is 20.

The school is examined half-yearly, and is also periodically inspected.

A number of boys have passed through the course of training at the school, and are now occupying positions as overseers, &c., on estates.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

In the year 1905, 3,620 patients were admitted into the hospitals of the Colony.

There were 523 deaths. Of this number, 333 died in the hospital at Antigua, being a mortality of just over 18 per cent.

Many of the patients brought to the hospital in Antigua are in a dying condition when they arrive. Frequently the only reason why admission is sought is that the relatives may save themselves funeral expenses.

(B.) LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

The following table gives the statistics for the lunatic and leper asylums:—

Asylum.	Number in Asylum on 1st January, 1905.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Rat Island	64	31	12	15*	1	6
Convalescent Asylum...	50	16	9	—	2	11

* Transferred to Convalescent Asylum.

The buildings at Skerretts, lately used as a training school for boys, have been converted into a central lunatic asylum for the Colony. Antigua alone bore the cost of conversion, which amounted to £1,600.

(C.) LEPER ASYLUMS.

There are three leper asylums in the Colony—two in Antigua (one at Keelings Point for females, and the other at Rat Island for males) and one at Fort Charles. St. Kitts.

In Antigua there were 41 lepers in the asylums at the beginning of the year; 8 were admitted during the year, and 7 died.

In St. Kitts there were 69 lepers at the beginning of the year; 5 were admitted during the year, and 10 died.

The total number of cases treated in these asylums for the last ten years is as follows:—

Year.	Antigua.	St. Kitts.
1896	35	74
1897	34	61
1898	39	71
1899	44	76
1900	46	73
1901	44	71
1902	37	63
1903	40	71
1904	30	62
1905	46	74

There is no record, in Antigua, at any rate, of any attendant at the asylums having contracted leprosy.

(D.) Poor-House.

The number of inmates in the Antigua Poor-House on the 1st January, 1905, was 105 (39 males and 66 females); 72 inmates were admitted during the year, and 24 were discharged.

The number of persons receiving outdoor relief in Antigua was 596, the total amount distributed being £444.

(E.) Savings Bank.

The number of depositors and the amount to their credit on the 31st December, 1905, are given in the table below:—

Place.	No.	Amount.
		£
Antigua	1,739	38,669
St. Kitts	498	13,990
Nevis	67	2,099
Dominica	502	7,857
Montserrat	186	3,182
Virgin Islands... ...	58	162
	3,050	£65,989

The following table shows the number of depositors, the amounts deposited and withdrawn, in the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Deposited.	Withdrawn.
		£	£
1901	2,516	23,669	21,330
1902	2,857	21,560	22,719
1903	2,731	21,443	22,252
1904	2,930	22,195	21,390
1905	3,050	24,702	23,616

The total amount of invested funds is £68,336.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The armed force of the Leeward Islands numbered on the 1st January, 1905, a total strength of 4 officers and 171 men stationed as follows:—

Antigua.—1 officer and 59 non-commissioned officers and men.

St. Kitts-Nevis.—2 officers and 60 non-commissioned officers and men.

Dominica.—1 officer and 35 non-commissioned officers and men.

Montserrat.—15 non-commissioned officers and men.

Virgin Islands.—2 non-commissioned officers and men.

The men are armed with the Martini-Enfield rifle, and are a smart and well-set up body.

(B.) PRISONS.

The total number of persons committed to prison in the several gaols of the Colony during the year 1905 was 1,838 (974 males, 818 females, and 46 juveniles).

The total number of prisoners received during the year at the Central Prison, Antigua, was 392 males and 256 females.

Twenty-nine males and 12 females were received from the other Presidencies, as follows:—

Presidency.	Males.	Females.	Total.
St. Kitts-Nevis	10	4	14
Dominica	17	8	25
Montserrat	1	—	1
Virgin Islands	1	—	1
Total	29	12	41

The number of committals from Antigua during the year was 606 (362 males and 244 females).

The prisoners were employed in the usual duties of the prison, such as cooking for prisoners, baking bread for the hospital, poor-house, lunatic and leper asylums, Skerretts' School, and the prison; making and mending clothing and bedding for the prison and Skerrett's School; also in quarrying, stone-breaking, smithy work, masonry, and carpentry.

The cost of each prisoner was £14 per annum.

Six male prisoners died during the year, and one prisoner was sentenced to death and executed.

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

The following table gives the total number of offences reported to the police during each of the last five years, together with convictions and acquittals in each year:—

Year.	Offences reported.	Convicted.	Acquitted, died awaiting trial, or *nolle prosequi* entered.
1901	14,391	7,493	6,795
1902	13,385	6,719	6,530
1903	13,385	6,700	6,176
1904	13,862	7,660	4,318
1905	14,606	8,476	5,372

Of the offences reported, 1,249 were offences against the person, 626 for prædial larceny, 599 for offences against property (other than prædial larceny), and the remaining cases comprise all other offences.

Summary convictions were recorded against 8,476 persons in the Magistrates' Court, the number of convictions in the Superior Courts amounting to 49.

5,517 persons were acquitted in the Magistrates' Courts and 23 in the Superior Courts, and a *nolle prosequi* was entered in three cases.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The last census was taken in 1901, when the total population was returned at 127,434.

There were 5,023 births and 3,320 deaths during the year.

Of the births, 1,900 were legitimate, and 3,123 or 62 per cent. illegitimate.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health during the year was satisfactory. There were no epidemics of a serious nature.

(C.) CLIMATE.

Rainfall—Antigua.

Average rainfall, 1905, January-December, 31·40 inches.

Average rainfall, 32 years, 1874-1905, 45·57 inches.

Highest rainfall recorded in any year, 73·59 inches in 1889.

Lowest rainfall recorded in any year, 28·78 inches in 1875.

Highest maximum temperature, 1905, 92°.

Lowest minimum temperature, 1905, 64°.

Two earthquakes recorded in 1905, February 15 and March 30.

Average rainfall,	Dominica, 1905 ...	118·93	inches.
„ „	St. Kitts, 1905 ...	36·65	„
„ „	Nevis, 1905 ...	38·57	„
„ „	Montserrat, 1905...	49·73	„

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

(A.) POST OFFICE.

The following tables give the revenue and expenditure for postal services for the last five years:—

Receipts.

Year.	Sale of Stamps, &c.	Commission on Money Orders.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1901	3,454	507	46	4,007
1902	5,255	406	48	5,779
1903	7,196	515	51	7,762
1904	5,362	516	47	5,925
1905	5,862	448	42	6,352

Expenditure.

Year.	Salaries, &c.	Conveyance of Mails.	Total.
	£	£	£
1901	2,890	2,563	5,453
1902	2,672	2,734	5,406
1903	4,093	2,742	6,835
1904	2,669	2,311	4,980
1905	2,514	1,319	3,833

The net profit on the working for the year was £2,519, as compared with £946 for the previous year.

The following table gives the statistics of postal matter sent to and from the Colony during the last five years:—

Year.	Letters and Cards received and sent.	Books and Papers received and sent.	Parcels received and sent.
1901	572,314	175,215	7,811
1902	613,761	173,447	8,707
1903	604,573	196,667	8,998
1904	662,516	200,872	10,112
1905	678,099	224,427	10,247

Comparing the figures for 1905 with those for 1904, we find an increase of 15,583 letters and cards received and sent, 23,555 books and papers received and sent, and 135 parcels received and sent.

The total value of money orders issued in the Colony was £22,492, as against £23,258 in 1904, and the value of orders cashed £15,635 as against £19,888.

(B.) TELEGRAPHS.

The subsidies paid to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company amount to £1,400 per annum, of which Antigua pays £500, St. Kitts-Nevis £500, and Dominica £400.

There is no telegraphic communication with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands.

(C.) TELEPHONES.

There are telephone services in the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica.

In Antigua there are 157 instruments in use, and 280 miles of wire; in St. Kitts, 91 instruments and 251 miles of wire; in Dominica, 97 instruments and 300 miles of wire.

The receipts and expenditure for the year under review are as follows:—

Presidency.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
Antigua	795	750
St. Kitts... ...	429	550
Dominica ...	380	729

IX.—MILITARY FORCES.

Defence forces exist in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis.

In Antigua the force was established in 1897, and consists at present of the St. John's Mounted Infantry, numbering 36 officers and men.

The Infantry Company was disbanded on the 15th November, 1904, and a Defence Reserve established, under Ordinance No. 7 of 1904.

The St. Kitts-Nevis Defence Force consists of mounted infantry and infantry numbering 88 officers and men, and was established in 1896.

A Defence Reserve Force was established in Dominica during the year 1904, and a similar force at Montserrat.

The arms for all the forces are on loan from the Imperial Government.

Constabulary or semi-military Colonial Force. (*See* Police.)

X.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Sir C. C. Knollys, K.C.M.G., proceeded to England on leave on the 1st June, 1905. The sad news of his death was received in the Colony by telegram on the 19th December.

His Honour H. Hesketh-Bell, C.M.G., Administrator of Dominica, administered the General Government of the Colony from the 2nd June, 1905, until the 2nd January, 1906, when he left for Uganda, where he had been appointed Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief.

On the departure of Mr. Bell, and until the arrival of Sir Bickham Sweet-Escott, the Government of the Colony devolved upon His Honour Sir Robert Bromley, Bart., Administrator of the Presidency of St. Christopher-Nevis.

Sir Bickham Sweet-Escott, K.C.M.G., was appointed Governor of the Leeward Islands, and assumed the government of the Colony on the 22nd March, 1906.

His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to approve of the appointment of the Honourable F. S. Wigley, Magistrate, District "C," to be Companion of the Imperial Service Order.

XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

ANTIGUA.

The financial condition of this Presidency continues to cause concern, but if it were not for the charges on account of the public debt, which amount to nearly £7,000, the Presidency would be easily solvent. The fact that a large amount of expenditure in connection with these loans has been almost entirely unproductive is a depressing factor in the situation. The apparent hopelessness of the attempt to establish financial equilibrium in the near future induces a feeling of public apathy in much that concerns the working of Government, and the demoralizing effect of Imperial doles is sometimes very apparent.

The Presidency has an abundant supply of labour available at low wages, and although it is far too early to draw reliable inferences as to the success of the grey crystal sugar factories established at Gunthorpes and Bendals, yet it is believed that the change is economically sound and that it promises well. Only a short time has elapsed since the adoption of a factory policy, and in that time there have been two bad seasons. Notwithstanding this, however, the actual working of the factory scheme has proceeded with almost unexpected smoothness. The area contributing canes to the Gunthorpes Factory has been increased, its railway is being extended and substantial improvements in the factory itself are being made. At Bendals Factory advantage has been taken by peasants of the obligation on the part of the owners of the factory to grind their canes to such an extent that the labour market in that particular quarter of the island has become affected, to the detriment, for the time being, at any rate, of the owners. Efforts are being made to improve the cultivation in different parts of the island by the introduction of steam ploughs, and one large firm of estate owners is conducting important experiments in mechanical cultivation. Notwithstanding this, however, there is no doubt that the fear which now prevails as to the possible denunciation of the Sugar Convention is doing much to prevent progress, and capitalists who would otherwise be willing to help the sugar industry in the Leeward Islands are frightened by the uncertainty which has been introduced in respect of the continuance of the Convention. This is exceedingly unfortunate, for it is only the high price of molasses which enables the Muscovado industry to be carried on at a profit, and to enable this profit to be made low wages must be paid.

The condition of the peasantry is further aggravated by the fact that in order to obtain moneys for the purposes of government the necessaries of life are heavily taxed. The difficulties of the whole situation have been increased during the past year by the abnormal drought. The cultivation of cotton has improved the prospects of the island, but it is abundantly clear that very few peasants can undertake this cultivation with any prospect of success. Cotton requires a very thorough cultivation, and unremitting care and the exercise of rather more than a little intelligence is necessary for its success.

BARBUDA.

The chances of this Crown Estate are brighter than they have been for a very long while, and with a steady adherence to the policy inaugurated in 1903 the island should become a valuable asset ofthe Presidency of Antigua. In that year the Secretary of State explicitly stated that it was intended to manage the island in future directly as a Crown Estate, and energetic action was at once taken to improve its condition. The British Cotton Growing Association made a grant of £100 for the purpose of experimenting with cotton, and the results have been so successful that 55 acres gave, on the past year's working, a net profit of £288, and 150 acres will be planted for the next season.

There are about 160 Government horses on the island and 125 cattle, and as only pure bred Zebu bulls are kept among the latter, the continued existence of a strain which has done so much to improve the breed of cattle in this Presidency appears to be assured. The island has an area of some 60 square miles, and with its 800 acres of walled enclosure, its "catching pens," wells, and excellent pasturage, it is an ideal place for a successful stock estate.

The population numbers some 800, and the labour supply is probably sufficient for the cultivation of 400 acres of cotton.

The tarpon fishing obtainable in the lagoon and along the shores of the island has proved an attraction to sportsmen, and excellent deer shooting may be had at a small cost. Guinea fowl and duck are also plentiful.

ST. CHRISTORHER-NEVIS.

This Presidency emerged in 1902-3 from dependence on the Imperial Government, and its record is one of steady progress. The cultivation of cotton has added to its prosperity and the industry may now be considered permanently established. During the past year there were 3,200 acres under cotton cultivation, and eight ginneries at work.

The scheme whereby certain estate owners in Nevis in return for an Imperial money grant have contracted to buy peasants' canes on a sliding scale at a minimum price of six shillings per ton continues to show excellent results. The scheme has engendered confidence in the Government and has afforded the peasant a ready market for the products of the cultivation in which he takes most pleasure. Beyond extensive repairs to the Administrator's residence in St. Kitts, no public works of any importance were undertaken during the year under review.

It is in contemplation to allow the Basseterre Town Board established by St. Kitts Ordinance No. 1 of 1901 to expire. In this case the Government will again take control of the municipal affairs of the town. Further experience of the working of this Board has shown that it is not, and cannot be, a success. The truth is that in small communities like these a supply of suitable men able and willing to serve on Boards of this description cannot be relied on, and sooner or later things reach a pass for which abolition of the Board, or a radical change in its status, is the only remedy.

DOMINICA.

The finances of this Presidency continue to be eminently satisfactory. The cultivation of its two principal products, limes and cocoa, is being rapidly extended, and the signs of prosperity are everywhere apparent.

During the year a new passenger jetty was erected in Roseau at the Table-à-Diable at a cost of £500, the structure being of steel piles and braces with a pitch pine decking and hand rails. The wooden jetty at Portsmouth was also repaired.

The installation of the electric light for the town of Roseau was pushed on rapidly, and at the end of the year was nearing completion. The power is obtained from the River Claire, about two miles from Roseau, a dam having been built across the river from which the water is carried by 13-inch lap-welded steel tubes for a distance of 600 yards to the power station with a head of 100 feet. At the power station the installation consists of two standard multipolar 12-K.W. generators, 220 volts, with double shunt regulator, driven by flexible coupling from and mounted on combination bedplate with a twin Trent 35-h.p. turbine. The station is also fitted with main switchboard carrying the necessary apparatus. The installation being on the three-wire system, the current is carried to the distributing pillar in town, a distance of two miles, over two bare copper conductors, each consisting of 37 wires, No. 13 S.W.G. with a middle wire 37/16. From the distributing pillar the wires radiate over the town in which there are 200 street lamps of 16 candle power each, and 300 lamps of the same power available for private houses. The cost of this work during the year was £2,790. The total cost of the work has been £3,754 2*s.* 6*d.*

At Portsmouth a neat steel suspension bridge was erected over the Indian River, having a span of 150 feet with a 10-feet roadway, capable of carrying the heaviest traffic of the district. Cost, £600.

A quarantine station was erected at Morne Daniel for the port of Roseau. It consists of one main building 50 feet by 26 feet, divided into two wards, with the necessary outbuildings and a circular cast-iron water tank having a capacity of 10,000 gallons. The total cost of this building was £370.

A free library, the gift of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, was erected in Roseau at a cost of £1,558 17*s.* 10*d.* The building is of cement concrete with two rooms or halls L-shaped in plan, with a wide gallery running all round.

Repairs, alterations, and additions were made to the following public buildings, viz.: Treasury Buildings, Prison, Queen's Lodge, Agricultural School Morne Bruce, Public Works Office and Yard, Fort Young Police Station, Morne Bruce Cottage, &c.

The main roads of the island were maintained in fair general order with an expenditure of £1,950.

The telephone system was further extended, and at the end of the year there were some 300 miles of wire in operation with 85 connections.

MONTSERRAT.

The year was a fairly prosperous one for the Presidency.

For the first time since 1890 the general revenue exceeded the general expenditure, the revenue being £7,433, and the expenditure £7,050, leaving a surplus of £383. The Presidency thus ceased to be a burden on the Imperial Exchequer.

As the Presidency has now emerged from bankruptcy it is opportune to note to what extent it has been relieved by Imperial grants.

The total amounts of grants-in-aid from the year 1898, when they commenced, to the financial year 1904-5, when they ceased (apart from grants to the Botanical Department) amount to £48,291 11*s.* 11*d.*, as follows, viz.:—

In aid of Revenue	£24,587	11	0
In aid of Repayment of Public Debt	12,955	5	0
In aid of Hurricane Relief	10,148	15	11
In aid of Sugar Industry	600	0	0
	£48,291	11	11

The grants-in-aid of Botanical Department from 1898 to 1905-6, inclusive, amount to £4,097 18*s.* 1*d.*

The revenue returns show satisfactory increases. The import duties were increased from 13⅓ to 15 per cent. *ad valorem*, and in proportion on specific duties by Ordinance No. 4 of 1905. The increased rates led to smaller importations and resulted in a loss to the revenue of £414, but the imposition of export duties by Ordinance No. 5 of 1905 brought in revenue amounting to £631, thus saving the situation and leaving an increase of £217. Jetty rates also show an increase of £77, owing to the rates having been levied on produce shipped from bays along the coast.

The decreases under Head 3 are due to time being given to pay Land, House, and Horse Taxes.

The net increase of revenue in excess of the previous year's is £196.

The expenditure during the year on ordinary and recurrent services is £562 less than the estimate and £1,254 less than the previous year.

The Police Force was reduced by six men during the year, resulting in a decrease of £161. The force now numbers one sub-inspector and 14 non-commissioned officers and men.

The Poor-House was closed on the 1st April, 1905, the inmates being divided into three classes. The first (consisting of nine hopelessly infirm) were boarded out. The second class (thirty-two persons) were given out-door relief, and the third class (ten persons) were discharged, resulting in a saving of £369.

There was no expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary.

The total imports for the calendar year 1905 amount to £18,053, as against £20,885 the previous year, showing a decrease of £2,832, principally due to increased import duties.

The total exports for 1905 amounted to £22,209, as against £21,640 the previous year, an increase of £564. The principal items showing the increased exportation are: Cotton (Sea Island) with an increase of £2,666; essential oil, £99; fresh limes, £254; horses, £56; cotton goods, £187.

The principal decreases are lime juice (raw and concentrated) with a decrease of £1,016; pickled limes, £208; Muscovado sugar, with £1,368; starches, £194; and molasses, £77.

The falling off in the value of lime juice exported is due to part of the year's crop being exported during the first quarter of 1906. The increase in the value of cotton and decrease in the value of sugar exported is due to the cultivation of cotton being substituted for cane.

The area cultivated in cotton was 700 acres in 1905, against 600 in 1904, and the amount of lint exported, 82,322 lb., with a value of £4,046, as against 27,606 lb., with a value of £1,380, in 1904.

There are three ginneries in the island. The labouring population evinced a desire to go in for minor industries, but owing to the absence of telegraphic and steam communication they were compelled to devote their attention to the cultivation of cotton and sugar for export to England and Canada respectively, and the cultivation of vegetables and raising of cattle and small stock for consumption inter-colonially and locally.

An attempt is being made to establish a pigeon post with Antigua. Some homers have been imported from England, and as soon as they have increased sufficiently, attempts to establish a regular post between the two islands will be made. If the experiment is successful the movements of steamers will be known in Montserrat soon after telegraphic news has reached Antigua, and shipments of fruit and other perishable things can be got ready without fear of their having to lie on the wharves and rot, owing to the non-arrival of an overdue steamer.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

It is satisfactory to note that this Presidency only just failed to maintain financial equilibrium. But for two items of unforeseen expenditure there would have been a credit balance on the year's transactions of over £300. One item was for compensation in respect of the cancellation of a mining concession granted some years ago, and the other was a refund to St. Kitts for the maintenance of a Virgin Islands lunatic wrongly charged, for several years, against the former Presidency.

The amount of goods directly imported from England and the United States, as shown by the table below, has greatly increased in recent years:—

—	1905.	1904.	1895.
	£	£	£
Imports from United Kingdom ...	787	771	269
" " British Colonies ...	81	30	28
" " United States	1,005	904	30
" " Danish West Indies ...	3,612	3,562	4,003
" " St. Domingo	26	53	—
" " Leeward Islands ...	62	186	246
	£5,573	£5,506	£4,576

Until the last few years it was the custom of the inhabitants to purchase the whole of their supplies in St. Thomas, but in recent years the business of the local shop-keepers has much increased, and they import an increasing amount of their goods from the United States and England.

Over 95 per cent. of the exports are to the Danish West Indies, and consist entirely of stock, agricultural produce, fresh fish, and charcoal; they showed a satisfactory increase in value.

—	1905.	1904.	1895.
	£	£	£
Exports to United Kingdom	132	82	—
" Barbados	562	1	49
" Danish West Indies... ...	4,385	4,413	3,773

The fish exported to the Danish West Indies is valued at £415. An unusual item in last year's exports is 77 horses and mules to Barbados. Cotton appears for the first time in recent years among the exports; it was valued at £130, and was shipped to England.

Customs duties show an increase of £138 on those of the previous year, and the amount, £1,080, is the largest amount on record. This satisfactory result was achieved in spite of the revenue from import duty on alcohol realizing £20 less than the estimate. This reduction seems to be due to an increase in the amount of rum made in the island. A good deal of spirit is no doubt smuggled, but far less than was formerly the case.

The amount of revenue derived from still licences and import duty on alcohol is only £72, or 3½*d.* per inhabitant. This is not satisfactory, but an excise duty on the spirits would not pay the cost of collection.

Nearly half the male population of the Virgin Islands between the ages of 16-60 have been accustomed to obtain employment out of the Presidency. They visit their homes for a few months annually, merely regarding them as a place to rear their families and only for permanent residence in old age. Besides the large number who obtain employment in connection with the shipping in St. Thomas, and on board the Hamburg-American steamers, about 500 men have usually worked on the sugar estates in Santo Domingo. The Virgin Islanders have earned annually about £3,650 on the Royal Mail steamers and factory in St. Thomas, and the Santo Domingo labourers on an average bring back with them to their homes about £10 each. Regard being had to the precarious nature of these occupations, it seems advisable that more attention should be given to home industries. Practically the whole of the land is in the possession of peasants, and with the help given them by the Agricultural Department they should have no difficulty in obtaining a comfortable living without leaving the Virgin Islands.

It is estimated that the cotton crop of the present year will nearly double that of the last. The quality has not been satisfactory, but efforts are being made to improve it.

The rainfall for the year was 56·76 inches. It is, unfortunately, very unevenly distributed; the heaviest fall was on August 10th, when 0·18 inches were registered. Considerable damage was done to the roads.

This heavy downpour was followed by an epidemic of typhoid fever, but in spite of this the vital statistics were satisfactory.

Births, 202—41 per thousand.

Deaths, 52—12·7 per thousand.

These satisfactory vital statistics are largely due to the outdoor life of the people, and the abundance of fresh fish and milk procurable.

During the year an Ordinance was passed establishing a savings bank, and at the end of the year the depositors numbered 68 with £208 17*s.* 6*d.* to their credit.

E. St. John Branch,
Colonial Secretary,
Leeward Islands.

27th December, 1906.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
489	Seychelles	1905
490	Falkland Islands	"
491	Gambia	"
492	Jamaica	1904–1905
493	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1905
494	Ceylon	"
495	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
496	Bahamas	1905–1906
497	Barbados...	"
498	Malta	1905
499	British Central Africa Protectorate	1905–1906
500	Colonial Survey Committee	"
501	Grenada	1905
502	Straits Settlements	"
503	Gibraltar	"
504	Trinidad and Tobago	1905–1906
505	St. Lucia	1905
506	Mauritius	"
507	Southern Nigeria (Lagos)	"
508	Somaliland Protectorate	1905–1906
509	Fiji	1905
510	St. Vincent	1905–1906
511	Sierra Leone	1905
512	Southern Nigeria	"
513	Basutoland	1905–1906
514	British Guiana	"
515	British Honduras	1905
516	Northern Nigeria	1905–1906
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone ...	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.
31	Northern Nigeria	Cotton, &c.
32	Do. Do.	Mineral Survey.
33	Southern Nigeria	Do.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis ...	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 539.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1906-7.

(For Report for 1905-6, *see* No. 518.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1907.

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No. 539.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1905-6, *see* No. 518.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Antigua,
20th August, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward an interesting and well-prepared report by Mr. E. St. John Branch, the Colonial Secretary, on the Blue Book of the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1906-7.

I have &c.,

BICKHAM SWEET-ESCOTT,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Elgin, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1906-7.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year 1906-7 (exclusive of grants in aid from the Imperial Government amounting to £8,159 9*s.* 4*d.*) was £138,154 14*s.* 5½*d.*, showing a net increase of £1,099 12*s.* 4*d.* over that for the previous financial year.

The following table shows the amount of revenue collected in each Presidency during the last five years, as also the increase or decrease in 1906-7, as compared with 1905-6.

Presidency.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.	Increase 1906-7 over 1905-6.	Decrease 1906-7 under 1905-6.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ...	46,395	43,812	44,295	48,798	44,175	—	4,623
St. Kitts-Nevis	42,778	39,127	43,905	47,145	49,615	2,468	—
Dominica ...	31,045	31,443	30,982	31,200	33,209	2,009	—
Montserrat ...	6,294	7,599	7,237	7,433	8,732	1,299	—
Virgin Islands	1,848	2,167	2,503	2,478	2,425	—	53
Total ...	128,355	124,148	128,922	137,054	138,154	5,776	4,676

Net increase of revenue in 1906-7 as compared with 1905-6, £1,100.

A comparative statement of the revenue collected in each Presidency of the Colony in the years 1905-6 and 1906-7, is given in Table I. of the Appendix.

Under the head of "Customs" Antigua shows an increase of £2,509 19*s.* 11*d.*; St. Kitts-Nevis, £1,919 3*s.* 9*d.*; Dominica, £673 14*s.* 1*d.*; Montserrat, £1,307 11*s.* 0*d.*; and the Virgin Islands, £13 5*s.* 0*d.*

Under the head "Port and Harbour Dues" Antigua shows an increase of £182 15*s.* 6*d.*, St. Kitts of £285 12*s.* 11*d.*, and

Dominica of £92 5*s.* 11*d.*, while Montserrat and the Virgin Islands show decreases of £111 3*s.* 3*d.* and £15 3*s.* 9*d.* respectively.

Under the head "Excise" Antigua and St. Kitts show decreases of £679 8*s.* 1*d.* and £363 7*s.* 10*d.* respectively, and Dominica and Montserrat increases of £756 13*s.* 0*d.* and £22 2*s.* 2*d.*

Under the head "Taxes" increases appear in St. Kitts-Nevis of £747 5*s.* 10*d.*, in Dominica of £43 10*s.* 3*d.*, and in Montserrat of £79 2*s.* 0*d.*, while Antigua and the Virgin Islands show decreases respectively of £129 8*s.* 2*d.* and £22 12*s.* 4*d.*

Under the head "Licences" Antigua shows an increase of £22 5*s.* 11*d.*, Dominica of £222 17*s.* 2*d.*, and Montserrat of £87 1*s.* 4*d.*; and St. Kitts and the Virgin Islands exhibit decreases of £43 15*s.* 4*d.* and £19 7*s.* 3*d.* respectively.

Under the head "Rates" increases appear in St. Kitts of £501 5*s.* 6*d.* and in Montserrat of £5 11*s.* 6*d.*

Under the head "Fees of Court" decreases appear in Antigua of £5,886 18*s.* 7*d.*, and in St. Kitts of £759 18*s.* 2*d.*, while Dominica, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands show respectively increases of £159 18*s.* 10*d.*, £37 19*s.* 3*d.*, and £175 11*s.* 10*d.*

The following is a return showing the number of licences issued in the Leeward Islands in 1906-7 for the sale of intoxicating liquors, and the revenue derived therefrom:—

Presidency.	No. of Licences issued for sale of intoxicating liquors.	Revenue derived therefrom.
		£
Antigua	13	553
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	50	2,015
Dominica	93	966
Montserrat	27	120
Virgin Islands ...	18	31
Total	201	3,685

Expenditure.

The total expenditure for the year 1906-7 was £129,998, as against £142,215 for the year 1905-6, showing a decrease of £12,217.

The expenditure of each Presidency for each of the last five years, as also the increase or decrease in 1906-7 as compared with 1905-6 is shown in Table II. of the Appendix.

The increases in the expenditure amount to £4,862. The largest increases appear under the following heads:—

Number.	Head.	Amount.
		£
3	Legislature	149
6	Treasury and Customs	204
9	Registrar and Provost Marshal	2,129
14	Education	66
16	Board of Health	1,063
17	Registration and Vaccination	63
18	Public Market	4
19	Public Library	105
22	Miscellaneous	321
23	Telephones	212
23(a)	Electric Lighting	137
24	Public Works Department	16
25	Public Works Recurrent	82
28	Local Department of Agriculture	311
	Total	4,862

Decreases in expenditure amount to £17,097, and occur principally under the following heads:—

Number.	Head.	Amount.
		£
1	Public Debt...	143
2	Pensions	80
4	Island Secretary (Commissioner)...	151
5	Federal Contribution	384
7	Audit...	2
8	Port and Marine	117
9	Magistrates	2,074
10	Police	191
11	Prisons	825
12	Medical	314
13	Hospitals	589
15	Ecclesiastical	221
21	Military	420
23	Post Office	359
23	Telegraphs	112
26	Public Works Extraordinary	7,941
29	Repayment of Loans	3,121
30	Forestry Department	35
	Total	17,079

Briefly reviewed, expenditure in Antigua (including Barbuda), shows a decrease of £9,176, in St. Kitts-Nevis an increase of £2,041, in Dominica a decrease of £4,072, in Montserrat a decrease of £529, and in the Virgin Islands a decrease of £480, compared with that of 1905-6.

(B.) Changes in Taxation.

There were no important changes in taxation during the year.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

A statement of assets and liabilities to 31st March, 1907, for the General Government and for each Presidency is given in Table III. of the Appendix.

(D.) Public Debt.

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounts to £274,900.

The debt of the Colony has been reduced by the following amount during the year:—

St. John's Savings Bank Loan, Antigua, £200.

The following table gives a list of the loans raised at different times and the amount standing to the credit of their respective sinking funds:—

Loans.	Amount.	Amount to Credit of Sinking Fund.
	£	£
Antigua—		
In Aid of Revenue, borrowed from St. John's Savings Bank.	8,940*	—
Wallings Reservoir...	14,000	2,876
Additional Waterworks	12,200	8,177
Public Works and Harbour Improvements.	100,000	21,665
St. Kitts-Nevis—		
Basseterre Protection	3,900	1,099
Waterworks (Sandy Point and Dieppe Bay).	8,000	2,320
Waterworks, Nevis...	8,850	4,722
Public Works	23,000	
Public Works, 1891...	23,500	4,364
Improvement of Basseterre ...	9,000†	—
Dominica—		
Public Works and Revenue in Aid	5,000	2,015
Roads and Bridges, 1880 and 1890	30,000	6,234
Roads and Bridges, 1895	30,000	4,113
Montserrat—		
Waterworks, 1883	1,100	343
Waterworks, 1893	10,000	1,531
	287,490	59,459
Less amount repaid	12,590	
	274,900	

* Amount repaid £4,440.

† Amount repaid £8,150.

(E.) Currency.

There is nothing calling for remark under this head.

(F.) Municipalities.

The revenue of the St. John's City Board, established under Antigua Ordinance No. 5 of 1898, amounted to £4,390, as compared with £4,656 for last year.

The expenditure for the same period amounted to £4,364, leaving a net surplus of £26 on the year's working. The Board receives a grant of £2,100 per annum. From this should be deducted the sum of £848 paid as interest and sinking fund on the Water Works Loans of 1885 and 1890.

Town Boards also exist in Basseterre (St. Kitts), and Roseau (Dominica).

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

Imports.

The total value of imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1906, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £407,251, as against £403,481 in 1905, being an increase of £3,770.

The following table shows the total value of imports for the last five years, distinguishing the countries from which the imports came, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1906 as compared with the previous year:—

Country whence Imported.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	Increase 1906 over 1905.	Decrease 1906 under 1905.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	165,958	168,700	175,516	177,119	178,587	1,468	—
British Colonies	56,941	51,716	56,541	62,019	68,227	6,208	—
United States of America	143,521	140,240	144,028	151,968	147,020	—	4,948
Other Foreign Countries	8,107	7,044	12,109	12,375	13,417	1,042	—
Total	374,527	377,700	388,222	403,481	407,251	8,718	4,948

Net increase in value of imports in 1906 as compared with 1905, £3,770.

The internal trade between the Presidencies shows a total value of goods exchanged or imported of £16,501, as against £17,325 for the year 1905, being a decrease of £824.

The figures for the quinquennial period 1902 to 1906, are as follows:—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1902	23,125
1903	16,580
1904	13,851
1905	17,325
1906	16,501

The following summary of imports gives the aggregate value of the various articles or goods imported during each of the last five years, showing also the increase or decrease in 1906 as compared with the previous year:—

Articles.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	Increase 1906 over 1905.	Decrease 1906 under 1905.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Live Animals	3,450	1,350	3,723	2,427	1,457	—	970
Foodstuffs	136,831	146,081	142,249	161,659	150,786	—	10,873
Drinks	12,423	8,935	10,951	11,751	12,715	964	—
Narcotics	3,799	3,236	3,837	3,484	3,862	378	—
Raw Materials..	24,064	12,222	18,233	10,833	13,460	2,627	—
Manufactured Articles, Textile ..	92,365	75,475	75,534	86,573	83,497	—	3,076
" " Metal ..	21,180	28,131	50,566	29,829	35,191	5,362	—
Other Manufactures	79,614	100,926	81,775	95,625	104,408	8,783	—
	373,726	376,356	386,868	402,181	405,376	18,114	14,919
Coin and Bullion	801	1,344	1,364	1,300	1,875	575	—
Total	374,527	377,700	388,232	403,481	407,251	18,689	14,919

Total increase of £3,770 in 1906.

Exports.

The total value of exports for the year 1906, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, was £399,208, as against £447,994 in 1905, being a decrease of £48,786.

The following table gives the total value of exports during each of the last five years, distinguishing the countries to which the various articles were exported, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1906, as compared with 1905:—

Countries to which Exported.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	Increase 1906 over 1905.	Decrease 1906 under 1905.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	78.292	67,178	79,256	122.970	161,614	38,644	—
British Colonies	129,611	152,075	175.458	226.593	178,445	—	48,148
United States of America	92,617	74,467	61.851	40,239	43,143	2,904	—
Other Foreign Countries	17,315	17,749	18,725	58,192	16,006	—	42,186
Total	317,835	311,469	335,290	447,994	399,208	41,548	90,334

A tabular statement showing the value of the principal exports during the last five years, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1906, as compared with 1905, is given in Table IV. of the Appendix.

The following table shows the export of sugar from each Presidency during the last ten years:—

Presidency.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	12,744	6,928	10,041	7,603	9,091	12,596	10,471	11,940	7,776	9,996
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	14,435	12,387	11,943	7,451	12,133	16,597	13,490	12,167	12,312	15,142
Dominica	565	339	278	107	152	148	214	129	181	82
Montserrat	810	411	553	223	579	996	845	429	134	351
Virgin Islands ..	1	—	—	—	35	2	—	2	11	—
Total	28,555	20,065	22,815	15,384	21,990	30,339	25,020	24,667	20,414	25,571

The following is a return of cotton exported from the Presidencies of Antigua (including Barbuda), St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands, during the years 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, and to 31st March, 1907. The value is taken at 1*s.* 6*d.* per lb.

Presidency.	1903.				1904.				1905.				1906.				To 31st March, 1907.			
	Lbs.	Value.			Lbs.	Value.			Lbs.	Value.			Lbs.	Value.			Lbs.	Value.		
		£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
Antigua	151	11	6	6	27,847	1,508	7	7	54,720	3,192	0	0	99,948	6,454	19	6	45,600	3,420	0	0
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	22,880	1,716	0	0	86,748	6,506	2	0	163,778	12,283	7	0	298,519	22,388	18	6	218,947	16,421	0	6
Montserrat ...	35,657	2,674	5	6	27,606	2,070	9	0	82,312	6,173	8	0	86,698	6,502	7	0	141,042	10,578	3	0
Virgin Islands ...	—	—			1,300	30	0	0	4,100	135	0	0	6,975	205	0	0	2,400	180	0	0
Total ...	58,688	4,401	12	0	143,501	10,114	18	7	304,910	21,783	15	0	492,140	35,551	5	0	407,989	30,599	3	6

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There is in Dominica one sulphur mine at Souffrière; and phosphates are found in the Islands of Redonda and Barbuda.

There is an interesting old mine in Virgin Gorda (one of the Virgin Islands group), which consists of several "stringers" of chalcopyrite, carrying copper and possibly gold. Molybdenum exists, and grey copper ore has been mined.

Manufactures.

Sugar is the principal manufacture of the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts, and in the latter Presidency the manufacture of rum is of some importance.

Lime juice is manufactured in Dominica and Montserrat, and in both these islands a strong attempt is being made to still further improve the prospects of the lime industry by the manufacture of citrate of lime.

Fisheries.

There are no organised fisheries. In 1904 the legislation which protected turtle and turtle eggs during certain months in the year was repealed, as it was found impossible to enforce the law against the fishermen of other nationalities, and the French Colonies especially were unwilling to enter into reciprocal arrangements having for their object the protection of turtle on the lines obtaining in this Colony.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANIC STATIONS.

Sugar Industry.

Sugar continues to be the principal industry in Antigua and St. Kitts; in Nevis and Montserrat it is in a decadent condition. This condition has just lately been accentuated in Nevis by the fact that one of the principal estates has ceased to make sugar, and another, the largest in the island, has discontinued planting this crop, and will cease to make it as soon as the crops now planted yield no more canes. It has been suggested that a central sugar factory would restore the industry, but it is difficult to obtain the necessary capital of some £50,000 to £60,000.

St. Kitts produced an average crop during the past season: much benefit has resulted to this island from the introduction of new varieties of sugar cane such as B. 147 and B. 208, whereby larger crops and freedom from disease have resulted.

The crop of Antigua was again small on account of the continuance of drought. The central sugar factory at Gunthorpes continued its operations successfully, making 2,348 tons of sugar. Some additions to plant and a small extension of railway were made and paid for out of the year's working expenses, thus in some measure reducing apparent profits. Towards the end of the year a considerable extension of railway was made and additional plant added to the factory, including a Krajewski crusher to be used in the crop of 1907. This is now in operation and doing excellent work. The operations of the factory were extended by three additional estates entering into contracts to supply canes from 1907 onwards.

Bendal's factory was improved by the addition of Babcock and Wilcox water tube boilers. The operations are greatly facilitated by the existence of its tramway, which now extends over about three miles. The factory was very successfully operated, the output for the season being 1,178 tons.

Both these factories are under contract with the Government to purchase such peasants' canes as may be offered during a term of years, Gunthorpe's to the extent of 4,500 tons, and Bendal's 1,500 tons a year. There were actually purchased 1,811 tons at Gunthorpe's and 4,728 tons at Bendal's. This has given great impetus to the cultivation of canes by peasants, and very much larger quantities are forthcoming in the crop of 1907.

Improvements have been made in three muscovado sugar works whereby the whole of the boiling is conducted by steam instead of open fires, thus affording better control of the process of sugar making. At the same time improvements have been made in the furnaces, enabling them to burn the megass direct from the mill without subjecting it to a preliminary drying: this makes the work independent of weather conditions besides effecting many other economies.

Experimental cultivation of sugar cane has been continued under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in Antigua and St. Kitts. The object of these experiments is to ascertain, by cultivation of a number of varieties of seedling canes, which canes are most likely to produce increases in the yield of sugar per acre, and at the same time are most resistant to disease. The effect of these experiments has been to eradicate cane disease in the Leeward Islands to a large extent and thus to increase the crops. The new varieties of cane now largely cultivated include B. 147, B. 208, Sealy Seedling, D. 95, and several others which are being carefully introduced. This work is now of fundamental importance to the industry.

Manurial experiments are also conducted with a view to ascertain the manurial requirements of the sugar cane. In all there are ten sugar experiment stations in Antigua and nine in St. Kitts; the results obtained are followed with keen interest by planters, who are now largely guided by them in their field operations.

An important step has been taken in the importation into Antigua of two sets of Fowler's steam ploughs by two separate groups of estates: it is anticipated that better crops will result from the more thorough tillage which these will effect as well as from the ability to cultivate the land at the most appropriate season irrespective of the exigencies of crop operations.

One large firm has started an important series of experiments on a very large scale in an effort to introduce the methods of cultivation in vogue in Louisiana and some other countries, whereby instrumental tillage and weeding will largely replace hand labour. These experiments, which are of considerable importance, are watched with great interest.

A table showing the export of sugar from each Presidency of the Colony during the last ten years is given under II. (A.) Exports.

Cotton Industry.

This industry continues to make very considerable progress, and is now regarded as one of the important staples of the Leeward Islands. The season on the whole has been an unfavourable one for cotton throughout the West Indies, but the industry appears to have been little checked thereby. The quality of the cotton, particularly in Antigua, has been considerably improved during the last year or two.

At Antigua several estates, which have not been under cultivation for very many years, have been cleared and planted in cotton. A number of young men have purchased land and settled in the island with the intention of growing cotton. Some of them are now reaping remunerative crops. Two additional ginneries have been erected, and the ginnery hitherto profitably worked by the Department of Agriculture has been transferred to a company. There is thus much activity in connection with this industry.

In St. Kitts the industry is very successfully carried on in conjunction with sugar: owing to the easily worked character of the soil of this island a crop of cotton can be grown on the sugar fields immediately before the sugar crop is planted, thus dividing the cost of cultivation between the two crops: cotton has thus, in this island, become a valuable ally to sugar.

In Nevis a large area, some 1,700 acres, was planted in cotton, but, owing to unpropitious seasons, the crop is but a small one. There does not appear, however, any disposition to abandon the industry, which will be vigorously carried on for the next year's crop.

In Montserrat the industry has been quite successfully carried on and has now become a principal industry, ranking in importance with lime juice.

Very considerable progress in cotton-growing has been made in Anguilla, resulting in most marked changes in the welfare and condition of this small island, which has thus been restored to a degree of prosperity beyond what it has enjoyed for a great number of years.

Owing to conditions peculiar to this island the crops of cotton are not heavy; they are, however, quickly and cheaply grown and are of excellent quality. Over 1,000 acres are now under cotton, and there are three ginneries at work.

A return of cotton exported from the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands during the years 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, and to the 31st March, 1907, is given under II. (A.) Exports.

The commercial extension of the cultivation of Sea Island cotton has been very marked in the Leeward Islands during the past four years. It is estimated that for the coming crop 1,800 acres are under cultivation in Antigua, 1,000 in Montserrat, and 4,000 in St. Kitts-Nevis and Anguilla. In the Virgin Islands the cultivation of cotton is gradually being extended. In Dominica its cultivation has made practically no headway, it being found that the climatic conditions are unsuitable to its successful growth.

In Nevis and Montserrat it would appear that cotton is gradually taking the place of cane as the staple crop.

The extension of the cultivation of the crop has been largely assisted by the British Cotton Growing Association. This Association has done much, in the way of providing money, machinery, and advice, for the advancement of the industry, which is now rapidly getting out of "leading strings" and being established on sound commercial lines.

The cultural work has largely been under the direction of the officers connected with the Imperial Department of Agriculture, to whose efforts the successful field work, the combating of pests, and the improvement in quality owe much. The department watches the industry very closely in all its stages, and is engaged in experimental work connected with the improvement of the quality of the cotton, the selection of seed, and the study of the various pests to which the crop is subject. The manner in which the cotton growers and the Department of Agriculture have worked together forms one of the most striking illustrations of the functions and usefulness of such a department.

Lime Industry.

The lime industry both in Dominica and Montserrat is in a satisfactory condition and continues to make steady advance. From both Presidencies citrate of lime is now being shipped on a large scale: the production of this article is held to be an improvement on the manufacture of concentrated lime juice. Concentrated juice is, however, still shipped in large quantities. Considerable quantities of raw juice are also shipped from both islands, for use in preparing beverages. Lime fruits are also shipped in increasingly large quantities to Europe and America. Pickled limes also form an article of export.

The essential oils prepared from the lime, either by hand or by distillation, constitute exports of some importance.

Cacao.

Cacao continues to be one of the most important industries in Dominica, where the cultivation is being steadily extended. The Imperial Department of Agriculture has under its control a large number of experimental plots for the cultivation of cacao in various districts of the island, designed with the object of ascertaining the effect of various manures and different methods of cultivation on the crop. Some of these experiments have given highly interesting results demonstrating that the productiveness of the cacao trees can be very greatly increased. The results obtained in certain of these experiments have attracted wide attention and are likely to have considerable influence on the methods of cultivation. The details are given in the annual reports of the Dominica Botanic Station and in the West Indian Bulletin.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture has continued investigations on the pests and diseases affecting cacao, and advises as to their control.

In Nevis small pioneer cacao plantations are making good progress; small crops will soon be reaped. It is not, however, probable that any considerable area of Nevis will be found suitable for cacao.

The small plantations of cacao in St. Kitts are making sufficiently good progress to warrant further extensions, and larger areas are now being planted in a tentative manner.

The experimental plots of cacao at Tortola have made more progress than was anticipated; as a result other small plots are being planted in favoured localities, and it appears possible that cacao may here become a peasant industry.

Onion Industry.

Onions now constitute an established minor industry in Antigua and to a smaller degree in Montserrat: their cultivation is being extended in other islands. They have been very successfully grown in Nevis and St. Kitts.

Fruit Industry.

Limes and oranges are shipped on a considerable scale from Dominica, and quantities of limes are also exported from Montserrat.

The pineapple industry in Antigua is practically extinct, the ravages of disease, the absence of shipping facilities, and the greater attractions of cotton have all contributed to its decadence.

Tobacco.

The experimental cultivation of tobacco continues to be pursued in St. Kitts. The results have so far been promising, and point to the possibility of eventually establishing a cigar tobacco industry in the Island.

Rubber.

The cultivation of Castilloa rubber is being experimentally extended in all the islands. In Dominica there are a large number of trees. Some of these growing in the Botanic station have recently been tapped, and the resulting rubber sent to England for valuation and report. The reports obtained were favourable in all cases.

Botanic Stations.

Botanic and experiment stations are maintained in every Presidency, at which are conducted experiments with plants with the object of improving agricultural conditions by the introduction of superior varieties of existing crops, and also of introducing new plants with a view to the establishment of fresh industries. Reports are published annually showing the work in progress and detailing the results of experiments. Separate reports are issued dealing with the experiments with sugar canes. The work of the experiment station has had profound influence in several directions, notably in the sugar and cotton industries. The officers connected with these stations are also engaged in enquiries concerning diseases and pests attacking crops, and are ready to visit plantations and advise in this connection, and also in relation to the cultivation of existing crops, or to the introduction of new ones: much produce in a large number of classes. The Shows are having little expression in reports.

Agricultural Shows.

Shows of agricultural produce are now held annually in each Presidency, under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture and the local agricultural societies, at which prizes are awarded for the best exhibits of agricultural produce in a large number of classes. The Shows are having a marked effect in improving the quality of produce.

The following Shows have recently been held:—

Tortola	October 24th, 1906.
Montserrat	November 9th, 1906.
Harris Village	
Antigua	February 28th, 1907.
St. Kitts	March 11th, 1907.
Nevis	April 4th, 1907.

Publications.

"The West Indian Bulletin" or Journal of the Imperial Department of Agriculture is issued quarterly. It contains scientific and general papers of agricultural interest and is the official means of publication of many results obtained in the experimental work of the department.

"The Agricultural News," issued fortnightly, affords useful information and advice on current topics of agricultural interest. Numerous reports and pamphlets are also issued on various subjects of agricultural importance, all of which give detailed information on the questions with which they deal.

In all the foregoing developments and efforts at advancement the Department of Agriculture has played a leading part. The botanic and experiment stations in each Presidency have conducted a great number of experiments with numerous crops, including sugar, cotton, cacao, limes, and a large number of others, particulars of which are to be found in the "Agricultural News" and the various departmental reports, the following of which are issued annually:—

Report on experiments with sugar-cane in the Leeward Islands, Parts I. and II.

Report on the botanic station experiment plots and agricultural education, Antigua.

Report on the botanic station, economic experiments, and agricultural education, St. Kitts-Nevis.

Report on the botanic station and experiment plots, Montserrat.

Report on the botanic station, agricultural school, and experiment plots, Dominica.

Report on the experiment station, Tortola, Virgin Islands.

(D.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

During the year under review 725 acres of Crown land were sold in the Island of Dominica to small peasants, and 983 acres to new settlers.

The interior of Dominica has been opened up by the "Imperial Road"; but roads are now required through the fertile valleys that lead down to the sea, and which are suitable for nearly every sub-tropical product and especially cocoa and limes.

The value of land in the Colony varies in accordance with its suitability for sugar cane or other products. In Dominica Crown lands can be purchased at 10*s*. an acre. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane land varies from £4 to £8 per acre.

(E.) SHIPPING.

A table showing the total tonnage of both steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1906, distinguishing between British and foreign vessels, is given in Table V. of the Appendix.

Comparing the figures given in Table V. with those for 1905, there is a decrease of 1,872,900 tons in steam vessels, and an increase of 22,002 tons in sailing vessels.

The following table shows the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in each Presidency during each of the last five years, including both steam and sailing vessels, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1906 as compared with 1905:—

Presidency.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	Increase 1906 over 1905.	Decrease 1906 under 1905.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	516,108	514,846	625,221	560,297	539,135	—	21,162
St. Kitts	575,972	558,168	590,349	596,993	624,603	27,610	—
Dominica	494,988	510,452	554,776	584,249	481.669	—	102,580
Montserrat	285,706	295,117	386,356	417,133	309,247	–	107.886
Virgin Islands ..	12,774	13,197	13,011	13,300	12,599	—	1,201
Total	1,885,548	1,891,780	2,169,713	2,172,472	1,967,253	27,610	232.829

III.—LEGISLATION.

The General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands was in session from the 25th May, 1906, to the 30th of the same month. Ten Acts were passed, the most important of which are: "The Patents Act, 1906," and "The Supreme Court (Civil Procedure) Act, 1906." The latter Act extends to the Colony English Civil Procedure and practice.

Twelve Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of Antigua, but the only one that calls for special mention is the Cotton Traffic Ordinance, 1906. This Ordinance provides for the licensing of the vendors and purchasers of seed cotton and lint cotton, and generally seeks to prevent illegal traffic in that article.

The Legislative Council of St. Kitts-Nevis passed eight Ordinances during the year. Of these the Basseterre Ordinance, 1906, abolishes the Town Board established by Ordinance No. 1 of 1901, that Board having proved a failure, and makes other provision for the Government of Basseterre.

The Legislative Council of Dominica passed eight Ordinances during the year, but none of them call for any special mention.

The Legislative Council of Montserrat passed eight Ordinances during the year, none of which call for any remark.

Three Ordinances were made by the Governor for the Virgin Islands under the provisions of section 4 of Leeward Islands Act No. 16 of 1902. None of them call for special mention.

OBEAH ACT.

The Obeah Act, 1904, has now been in operation for three years, and it is perhaps opportune to consider its effect. It is very pleasing to be able to record that the Act has been a marked success, and that the degrading and dangerous crime of practising obeah has received a check from which it is never likely to recover. "Obeah," "Voodoo," or "Juju," is, in the West Indies, the survival of the whole body of primitive beliefs and customs of fetichistic African tribes. Its great danger is the power which a belief in its practices places in the hands of some degraded but sharp-witted scamp, who with no belief in it himself, terrorises over the community he visits or resides in. The Act referred to makes the possession of any "instrument of Obeah" a proof of the crime of practising Obeah unless the contrary be proved, and provides for the whipping of males and for police supervision. Whipping is never ordered for a first offence. The police were encouraged to take energetic action under the new law, and several Obeah men quickly discovered that the Leeward Islands were no longer a fitting place for abode. The Obeahman now finds it a difficult and dangerous thing to keep his stock in trade by him, and deprived of his paraphernalia of human skulls, cocks' heads, bones, and filthy messes, his fame has vanished. When, as in the case of a well-known Obeahman ordinarily resident in Montserrat, but whose operations extended over the Colony, a flogging is added to some wholesome detention ridicule of his practices takes the place of the dread which they formerly inspired. Up to the very last the peasants believed, in the case referred to, that the threatened degradation of a flogging would be warded off by some magic influence. It is probable that Obeah, in this Colony at any rate, is responsible for very few cases of poisoning. It would not appear that any knowledge of African bush poisons survives in these Islands, and any attempts to use the ordinary poisons that would be within his reach are too dangerous for the average Obeahman. Though it is perhaps too much to hope that the ignorant portion of a race that has only been in its new environment some four or five generations will completely lose yet awhile the beliefs that its African ancestors held for perhaps thousands of years, yet the spread of education and repressive measures of the kind here referred to have worked a marvellous change for the better in a very short space of time.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) Primary Education.

The number of children on the rolls of the Government and State-aided primary schools for the year 1906-7 was 26,627, as against 26,326 for the year 1905-6. The average attendance was 12,143, as against 11,801 for the previous year.

In 1890, the year of the establishment of compulsory education, there were only 12,000 children on the roll, with an average attendance of 7,000.

The following table shows the number on the roll, the average attendance, school fees, Government grant, and voluntary contributions during the last five years:—

—	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
Number on roll	25,329	26,317	26,854	26,326	26,627
Average attendance ...	11,985	12,352	12,591	11,801	12,143
	£	£	£	£	£
School fees	91	99	44	33	43
Government grant	6,347	6,375	6,245	6,362	5,993
Voluntary contributions ...	488	418	417	400	389

(B.) Secondary Education.

The following is a list of the secondary education schools of the Colony with their respective grants:—

Name.	Grant.		
	£	s.	d.
Antigua Grammar School*	256	10	0
St. Kitts Grammar School	212	0	0
Antigua Girls' High School†	125	0	0
Dominica Grammar School	402	0	0
Spring Gardens Female Training College, Antigua ...	150	0	0

* £50 for scholarships. † £25 for scholarships.

(C.) Industrial Schools.

There is one industrial school in the Colony, viz., the Training School at Antigua, to which boys are sent from all the Presidencies.

The number of boys at the beginning of the year was 39, 20 were admitted during the year, 2 were released on licence, and 2 were discharged.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Lessons and lectures in the secondary grade of agricultural instruction are given by the agricultural and science master at the Antigua Grammar School, who is provided by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. This department also gives seven agricultural scholarships, which are tenable at that school of the annual value of £10 each.

The lessons and lectures this year have comprised: (i) lessons in chemistry, agriculture, and animal physiology at the Antigua Grammar School, (ii) lessons in plant physiology and general science at the Girls' High School, lectures at the Female Training College on tropical hygiene, lectures to the elementary school teachers of the island on tropical hygiene. Every boy at the Grammar School takes at least one of the science subjects, so that about seventy boys attend the classes. The numbers in the classes from the Girls' High School are fifteen and nine respectively. From the Female Training College sixteen students attend the lectures, and, of the elementary school teachers, about fifteen have availed themselves of the opportunity to attend the lectures on tropical hygiene.

In the cases of the Female Training College and the elementary teachers, the work has for its object the improvement and extension of the teaching of science subjects in elementary schools.

DOMINICA AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL.

The school is maintained by the Imperial Department of Agriculture; it was opened December 1st, 1900. The officer in charge received his training at the Royal Gardens, Kew, and is assisted by a schoolmaster.

The object of the school is to afford sons of peasants and small planters definite technical and practical training in agriculture, with a view to the boys subsequently occupying positions on estates. The boys, in addition to agricultural teaching, receive a general elementary education; the boys reside at the school. The curriculum includes a large amount of outdoor work, and a number of experiment plots are maintained in connection with the school.

A certain amount of live stock is maintained at the school. The full complement of boys is 20.

The school is examined half-yearly, and is also periodically inspected.

A number of boys have passed through the course of training at the school, and are now occupying positions as overseers, etc., on estates.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

In the year 1906, 2,999 patients were admitted into the hospitals of the Colony.

There were 425 deaths. Of this number 258 died in the hospital at Antigua. *See* Table VII. of the Appendix.

(B.) LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

There is a central lunatic asylum for the Colony at Skerretts, Antigua.

The following table gives the statistics for the year 1906:—

Asylum.	Number in Asylum on 1st January, 1906.	Admissions.	Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	Deaths.
Central Lunatic Asylum, Antigua	108	41	13	—	—	17

(C.) LEPER ASYLUMS.

There are three leper asylums in the Colony—two in Antigua (one at Keelings Point for females, and the other at Rat Island for males) and one at Fort Charles, St. Kitts.

In Antigua there were 39 lepers in the asylums at the beginning of the year; 4 were admitted during the year, and 1 died.

In St. Kitts there were 61 lepers at the beginning of the year; two were admitted during the year, and 3 died.

The total number of cases treated in these asylums for the last ten years is as follows:—

Year.	Antigua.	St. Kitts.
1897	34	61
1898	39	71
1899	44	76
1900	46	73
1901	44	71
1902	37	63
1903	40	71
1904	30	62
1905	46	74
1906	43	63

There is no record, in Antigua at any rate, of any attendant at the asylums having contracted leprosy.

(D.) POOR-HOUSE.

The number of inmates in the Antigua Poor-House on the 1st January, 1906, was 113 (40 males and 73 females); 35 inmates were admitted during the year, and 12 were discharged.

The number of persons receiving outdoor relief in Antigua was 659, the total amount distributed being £405.

(E.) SAVINGS BANK.

The number of depositors and the amount to their credit on the 31st December, 1906, are given in the table below:—

Place.	No.	Amount.
		£
Antigua	1,688	38,057
St. Kitts ... Nevis	598	17,527
Dominica	521	9,174
Montserrat	142	3,092
Virgin Islands... ...	96	318
Total	3,045	£68,168

The following table shows the number of depositors, the amounts deposited and withdrawn in the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Deposited.	Withdrawn.
		£	£
1902	2,857	21,560	22,719
1903	2,731	21,443	22,252
1904	2,930	22,195	21,390
1905	3,050	24,702	23,616
1906	3,045	27,017	25,183

The total amount of invested funds is £69,924.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The armed force of the Leeward Islands numbered on the 1st January, 1906, a total strength of 4 officers and 170 men, stationed as follows:—

Antigua.—1 officer and 58 non-commissioned officers and men.

St. Kitts-Nevis.—2 officers and 60 non-commissioned officers and men.

Dominica.—1 officer and 35 non-commissioned officers and men.

Montserrat.—15 non-commissioned officers and men.

Virgin Islands.—2 men.

The men are armed with the Martini-Enfield rifle, and are a smart and well set-up body.

(B.) PRISONS.

The total number of persons committed to prison in the several gaols of the Colony during the year 1906 was 1,360 (665 males, 666 females, and 29 juveniles).

The total number of prisoners received during the year at the Central Prison, Antigua, was 223 males and 188 females.

Thirty-four males and one female were received from the other Presidencies, as follows:—

Presidency.	Males.	Females.	Total.
St. Kitts-Nevis	18	1	19
Dominica	14	—	14
Montserrat	—	—	—
Virgin Islands	2	—	2
Total	34	1	35

The prisoners were employed in the usual duties of the prison, such as cooking for the prisoners, baking bread for the hospital, poor-house, lunatic and leper asylums, Skerrett's School, and the prison; making and mending clothing and bedding for the prison and Skerrett's School; also in quarrying, stone-breaking, smithy work, masonry, and carpentry.

The cost of each prisoner was at the rate of £17 7*s.* 0*d.* per annum.

Two male prisoners died during the year.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The following table gives the total number of offences reported to the police during each of the last five years, together with convictions and acquittals in each year:—

Year.	Offences reported.	Convicted.	Acquitted, died awaiting trial, or *nolle prosequi* entered.
1902	13,385	6,719	6,530
1903	13,385	6,700	6,176
1904	13,862	7,660	4,318
1905	14,606	8,476	5,372
1906	14,227	6,665	6,726

Of the offences reported, 3,878 were offences against the person, 715 for praedial larceny, 1,358 for offences against property (other than praedial larceny), and the remaining cases comprise all other offences.

Summary convictions were recorded against 6,665 persons in the Magistrates' Court, the number of convictions in the Superior Courts amounting to 34.

6,701 persons were acquitted in the Magistrates' Courts and 17 in the Superior Courts, and a *nolle prosequi* was entered in 8 cases.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The last census was taken in 1901, when the total population was returned at 127,434.

There were 4,786 births and 3,154 deaths during the year.

Of the births, 1,873 were legitimate, and 2,913 or 60 per cent. illegitimate.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health during the year was satisfactory. There were no epidemics of a serious nature.

(C.) CLIMATE.

Rainfall—Antigua.

Average rainfall, 1906, January to December, 53·93 inches.

Average rainfall 33 years, 1874-1906, 45·82 inches.

Highest rainfall recorded in any year, 73·59 inches in 1889.

Lowest rainfall recorded in any year, 28·78 inches in 1875.

Highest maximum temperature 1906, 92°.

Lowest minimum temperature 1906, 64°.

Three earthquakes were recorded in 1906: June 24th, August 17th, and December 3rd.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

(A.) POST OFFICE.

The revenue and expenditure for postal services for the last five years are given in Table VI. of the Appendix.

The net profit on the working for the year was £1,988, as compared with £2,519 for the previous year.

The following table gives the statistics of postal matter sent to and from the Colony during the last five years:—

Year.	Letters and Cards received and sent.	Books and Papers received and sent.	Parcels received and sent.
1902	613,761	173,447	8,707
1903	604,573	196,667	8,993
1904	662,516	200,872	10,112
1905	678,099	224,427	10,247
1906	641,963	218,808	10,127

Comparing the figures for 1906 with those for 1905 we find a decrease of 36,136 letters and cards received and sent, 5,619 books and papers received and sent, and 120 parcels received and sent.

The total value of money orders issued on the Colony was £33,431, as against £22,492 in 1905, and the value of orders paid for the Colony £16,109, as against £15,635.

(B.) TELEGRAPHS.

The subsidies paid to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company amount to £1,400 per annum, of which Antigua pays £500, St. Kitts-Nevis £500, and Dominica £400.

There is no telegraphic communication with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands.

(C.) TELEPHONES.

There are telephone services in the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica.

In Antigua there are 161 instruments in use and 290 miles of wire; in St. Kitts 92 instruments and 254 miles of wire; in Dominica, 110 instruments and 325 miles of wire.

The receipts and expenditure for the year under review are as follows:—

Presidency.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
Antigua	787	667
St. Kitts... ...	419	552
Dominica ...	503	598

IX.—MILITARY FORCES.

Defence forces exist in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis.

In Antigua the force was established in 1897, and consists of mounted infantry, numbering 36 officers and men.

The infantry company was disbanded on the 15th November, 1904, and a Defence Reserve established under Ordinance No. 7 of 1904.

The St. Kitts-Nevis Defence Force consists of mounted infantry and infantry, numbering 88 officers and men, and was established in 1896.

A Defence Reserve Force was established in Dominica during the year 1904, and a similar force at Montserrat.

The arms for all the forces are on loan from the Imperial Government.

Constabulary or semi-military Colonial Force, *see* Police.

X.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

No changes of importance occurred under this head during the year.

XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The year under review has been one of marked agricultural activity, and the vital importance of agricultural knowledge is beginning to be fully realised throughout the Colony. These are agricultural communities, and without a progressive agricultural policy directed by a strong Department of Agriculture they cannot hold their own in the markets of the world. The work of an Agricultural Department must, in order to be really efficient, be well ahead of the local requirements for the time being. It must lay the foundation for new industries, and repair old ones. It is only by an intelligent anticipation of events that "sudden" outbreaks of plant disease can be successfully met, and any lessening of the efforts of the present

Department, owing to lack of funds, would be disastrous to every Presidency. The work of the Department of Agriculture has been a conspicuous success in this Colony, and as the history of these islands must be the history of agricultural effort, it will be, perhaps, useful to glance at the steps which have been taken in this direction.

The development of agricultural effort is closely connected with the history of the laboratories and botanic, or as they might be more fittingly termed, experiment stations, and it is from these centres that knowledge has radiated. The progressive policy of Sir W. Haynes Smith created, in the year 1889, laboratories, followed by botanic stations, and valuable work was done by the officers employed until the year 1899, when the Imperial Department of Agriculture assumed the direction of agricultural efforts. In these years, amongst other work, pedigree stock had been imported into the Colony with a view to the improvement of local breeds, and resistant varieties of cane had been introduced to replace the Bourbon, which, it was found, readily succumbed to rind fungus. The data and information which subsequently rendered possible the establishment of sugar factories in Antigua were also obtained, and, generally, the laboratories (or rather the laboratory at Antigua, for that in St. Kitts, unfortunately, had a short life) and the stations referred to became the centres of agricultural effort.

In 1899 more funds became available and a strong impetus was given to the movement. In 1903 the extension of the duties of the Analytical and Agricultural Chemist by his appointment as Superintendent of Agriculture for the Colony brought about the most happy results. Agricultural efforts throughout the scattered Colony were systematised and brought into closer touch, and the phenomenal success of the cotton industry is very largely due to the practical help given by the Department, and the untiring efforts of its officers to instil the necessary knowledge. The industries of Dominica require watching quite as close as that which has in former years been given to the sugar-producing islands, and it is to be hoped that when the time comes for the Imperial Government to cease its contribution in aid of the Agricultural Department, public opinion in the Colony will have been sufficiently educated to fully realise the absolute necessity of straining every effort to keep the Department in full working order.

An important event of the year was the visit of the delegates from the various Boards of Trade in the Dominion of Canada, who met and consulted with representative gatherings of the planters, merchants, and business men of the Presidencies with a view to fostering trade between the Dominion and the Colony. The meetings were of an essentially practical and business-like nature, and can hardly fail to benefit the trade relations between the two places.

The absence of proper steam communication with the neighbouring Colonies has been severely felt. Letters and goods from Europe for the Colony have had to wait for days and, sometimes, weeks at Barbadoes for a chance opportunity of conveyance to their destination. What the Colony wants is a linking up by steam communication with St. Thomas on the one side and with Barbados on the other.

ANTIGUA.

The financial condition of this Presidency has shown a great improvement during the year. The expenditure, excluding that of the Botanical Department defrayed from Imperial Funds, only exceeded the revenue by £1,031, instead of by £5,572 as was estimated to be the case. This deficit is the smallest that has occurred for the past 13 years. The difference between the actual and the estimated deficit is so large as to require some explanation. An analysis of the figures shows that the actual increase of revenue was £973, and that as regards expenditure some £900 of the saving was due to the discontinuance of the mail contract with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. There were genuine savings, however, under most of the heads of expenditure, and though the Presidency cannot by any means be said to be out of the financial wood, yet its prospects are undoubtedly better than they have been for a long time past. There has been a good deal of emigration during the year, especially to the Isthmus of Panama, and complaints are being made locally as to the scarcity of labour. This emigration has, however, resulted in increased wages, and there can be no doubt that the condition of the peasantry has been materially improved by the competition for labour which has taken place between the local planters, the sugar planter of St. Croix, and the Isthmian Canal agents. Fears were entertained by some that the impetus given to emigration would result in numbers of women, children, and old people, the dependents of emigrants, becoming a burden to the Government, and the opinion was even expressed in certain directions that the Government should, by a stringent application of emigration laws, check the tide of emigration. As a matter of fact, the moneys remitted from the United States during the year amounted to £2,160, and 70 per cent. of this amount was from labourers. Between August, 1906, and the 31st of March of the present year, Antigua labourers at the Canal Zone remitted £1,321 to their families in Antigua. The fact is, that the Presidency has, in some directions, materially benefited, for the present at any rate, by the emigration. The labourers left behind have been able to press with success for higher wages, and those who have left have, in the majority of cases, sent generous support to their dependents. The result has been a great increase in the purchasing power of the community. The impetus given to cotton cultivation by the high prices which have been obtained for that article has also tended to raise the price of labour by creating fresh demands, and the old complaint as to the futility of increasing the wage of the negro as an incentive to work is being heard. He works fewer days in the week it is said, as the higher rate has given him all the cash he wants. Increased prosperity should, however, create new wants in him, and these new wants may supply the incentive for labour. However this may be, there is no doubt that at the present time there is a scarcity of labour on some estates, and that the extension of certain industrial enterprises is being retarded thereby. The introduction which is taking place of mechanical labour-saving appliances will do a great deal, but for the most part the matter must be left to the natural readjustment of a state of things which has been rather violently disrupted.

The Grey Crystal Sugar Factories, established at Gunthorpes and Bendals, continue to be a success, and the fullest advantage is taken by the labouring population of the obligation on the part of the owners of these factories to grind peasants' canes.

BARBUDA.

This Crown estate continues to show financial improvement, and with a steady adherence to the policy inaugurated in 1903 the island should do well. In the year referred to, the Secretary of State laid it down that the island should be managed directly as a Crown estate, and energetic efforts have been made to improve its condition. The British Cotton Growing Association made a grant of £100 for the purpose of experimenting with cotton, and the venture has proved very successful.

There are about 160 Government horses on the island and 125 cattle, and as only pure bred Zebu bulls are kept among the latter, the continued existence of a strain which has done so much to improve the breed of cattle in this Presidency appears to be assured. The island has an area of some 60 square miles, and with its 800 acres of walled enclosure, its "catching pens," wells, and excellent pasturage, it is an ideal place for a successful stock estate. Efforts are being made to improve the breed of horses by the importation of thoroughbred stallions from Jamaica.

The population numbers some 800, and the labour supply is probably sufficient for the cultivation of 400 acres of cotton.

The tarpon fishing obtainable in the lagoon and along the shores of the island has proved an attraction to sportsmen, and excellent deer shooting may be had at a small cost. Guinea fowl and duck are also plentiful.

ST. CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS.

This Presidency emerged in 1902-3 from dependence on the Imperial Government, and its record is one of steady progress. The revenue for the year under review more than fulfilled expectations, and enabled the Government to pay off £2,500 of debt. The surplus of assets has risen from £9,007 at the 31st of March, 1905, to £12,650 at the 31st of March, 1906.

Seasons were favourable, the sugar crop was up to the average, and cultivation of cotton has been extended. For the first time for many years the revenue of the Island of Anguilla, which forms part of the Presidency, exceeded the expenditure, and financial dependence on St. Kitts has thus ceased for the present, at any rate. This gratifying state of things is due to the success which has attended the cultivation of cotton.

The Island of Nevis unfortunately did not share in the general good fortune of the Presidency. This was principally due to the comparative failure of the cotton crop.

As was foreshadowed in last year's report, the Government have taken over the control of municipal matters in the town of Basseterre, and the Town Board has ceased to exist. The good results of this change are already apparent.

The public health has been good, though the rate of infant mortality is higher than it should be.

DOMINICA.

The finances of this Presidency continue to be eminently satisfactory. The Presidency has grown and is annually growing on a solid foundation in the wealth of her resources. These resources are being opened out and applied year by year. During the past ten years many newcomers have settled in the island. Some have acquired private lands already under cultivation, and others have purchased from the Crown upwards of 5,000 acres, in the aggregate, of forest land. These lands they are now actively clearing and placing under cultivation. Peasant proprietors have also acquired within the same period some 1,200 acres of Crown land.

The two principal products are limes and cocoa, and the high prices obtained of late have greatly encouraged the further extension of these industries. Whether the new settlers in certain lands in the interior of the island will find their estates as profitable as those situated nearer the coast can only be at present a matter for conjecture, and it will be as well, perhaps, if caution were exercised as regards expensive ventures in this direction. At the present time two projects are being worked out by private parties for the development of the timber industry and the occupation of the forest lands as they are cleared. In connection with one of these schemes it is proposed to construct a tramway to the sea-board to facilitate the transport of the timber cut and of the produce from the interior of the island.

The manufacture of citrate of lime, as a substitute for concentrated lime juice, has given most promising results, and the export of this article is likely to show a considerable increase.

Citrate of lime is a purer product than concentrated lime juice, and is more favoured by citric acid makers in England and America. Its increased production in Dominica will raise the lime industry and make for its stability.

The installation of the electric light in the town of Roseau has been completed at a total cost of £3,794 17*s.* 11*d.* The street and house service was started in thorough working order on the 1st of October, 1906, and all the lights available have been taken up.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie presented a building for a free public library, which was opened to the public in September.

MONTSERRAT.

The Presidency ceased to be a burden on the Imperial Exchequer in 1905-6, having closed that year with a surplus of £1,299. Of this amount, however, £972 was unexpended Imperial grant-in-aid for 1904-5; £472 has been repaid the Imperial Government out of general revenue, and the remaining £500 is to be repaid during 1907-8.

The general revenue for the year under review was £8,732, and the expenditure £7,050, leaving a surplus of £1,682. This is a state of affairs unprecedented in the history of Montserrat.

The revenue returns show material increases, almost every item being in excess of the previous year.

The principal items showing increases are "Import Duties (General)" with an increase of £487; "Import Duties (Alcoholic)" £334, and "Export Duties" £487.

The import duties general (*ad valorem*) were reduced from 15 per cent. to 13⅓ per cent. in January, 1907—yet the receipts for the quarter ended 31st March, 1907, from this source exceed the receipts for the corresponding quarter of the previous year by £223.

The net increase of revenue in excess of the previous year is £1,289.

The expenditure during the year on ordinary and recurrent services is £529 less than the previous year, and £1,783 less than in 1904-5.

Cotton has become the staple industry, and the high price obtained for this article has resulted in the peasants taking eagerly to its cultivation to the exclusion even of ground provisions. This is unfortunate, as any failure of the cotton crop would be attended by unhappy results in the absence of an adequate food supply. While the great increase in the prosperity of the Presidency, which is so largely due to the success of cotton and limes, is eminently satisfactory it is well to bear in mind that cotton may prove a precarious crop. It is peculiarly subject to the effect of unpropitious seasons, and of pests, while the prices realised during the past seasons have been abnormally high. Some time must therefore be allowed to elapse before it can be claimed with certainty that Montserrat has seen the end of its industrial difficulties, though there is reason to hope that this is the case.

The citrate of lime industry is rapidly progressing, and an interesting attempt is being made to create an industry in preserved fruits, jams, jellies, pickles, and other similar products. An important business in drawn-thread and needlework is also being developed. The prosperity of the island is severely handicapped and its progress greatly retarded by the absence of cable connection with the other islands, and the irregularity of the steamship calls. On several occasions during the year under review large quantities of fresh fruit have been lost owing to the non-arrival of expected steamers.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The year has been a prosperous one for this Presidency.

The total local revenue amounted to £2,424 19*s.* 4*d.*, and exceeded by £393 4*s.* the expenditure for the year. On the 31st of March there was a surplus of £451 13*s.* 7*d.* of assets over liabilities.

The whole of the land in this Presidency is in the possession of the peasants, who in most islands of the group have no difficulty in obtaining adequate support from it. There is an abundant supply of fish and milk. A large family is regarded as a valuable asset, and not as a burden as is the case of so many parts of the West Indies. It is pleasing to record that the interest shown by the people in the work of the Agricultural Department, which at first they regarded with suspicion, is steadily increasing. Cotton-growing has made satisfactory progress, and the quality of the cotton grown shows a marked improvement. It has been found advisable for the Government to offer to purchase the cotton grown, and the whole of it has been disposed of in this way. The circumstances of the Virgin Islands are exceptional, being an isolated group of islands inhabited by peasant proprietors who expect the Government to be a paternal one, and to aid them in matters which, in more advanced communities, are left to private enterprise.

The Tariff Ordinance of 1905, which admitted boat-building materials free of import duty, has been followed, as was hoped, by a marked revival of the industry of boat building. Local shipwrights have now more orders than they are able to execute. With increasing prosperity it is probable that more of the Virgin islanders will remain at home, but at present nearly half the male population between the ages of 16 and 60 find employment out of the Presidency. They visit their homes for a few months annually, merely regarding them as a place to rear their families and only for permanent residence in old age. A large number obtain employment in connection with the shipping at St. Thomas, and others work on the sugar estates at Santo Domingo.

This state of things illustrates the dependence of a peasant proprietary, even under really favourable conditions, on regular wage-earning employment. If, too, the power of wage earning be altogether cut off, the conditions of life quickly sink to a lower level, civilising influences weaken, and rehabilitation becomes a difficult matter.

E. St. John Branch,
Colonial Secretary.

Leeward Islands,
17th August, 1907.

TABLE I.—*Comparative Statement of Revenue collected in each Presidency of the Colony in the Years* 1905-6 *and* 1906-7.

Heads of Revenue.	Antigua.						St. Kitts-Nevis.						Dominica.						Montserrat.		
	1905-6.			1906-7.			1905-6.			1906-7.			1905-6.			1906-7.			1905-6.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs—																					
Import Duties on other than alcoholic liquors.	18,715	0	10	20,125	8	8	19,449	17	1	20,395	6	2	12,316	9	10	13,300	15	4	3,035	6	6
Import Duties on alcoholic liquor	5,502	1	5	6,601	13	6	3,511	1	8	4,113	7	9	2,491	15	10	1,899	12	3	1,412	1	8
Export Duty	—			—			2,996	10	2	3,367	18	9	1,664	6	4	1,945	18	6	630	11	7
	24,217	2	3	26,727	2	2	25,957	8	11	27,876	12	8	16,472	12	0	17,146	6	1	5,077	19	9
Port, Harbour Dues, &c.	2,746	2	2	2,928	17	8	3,811	19	4	4,097	12	3	2,048	2	1	2,140	8	0	263	3	10
Internal Revenue—																					
Excise	920	5	1	240	17	0	4,215	7	0	3,851	19	2	3,381	7	3	4,138	0	3	—		
Taxes	4,332	6	8	4,202	18	6	3,639	12	10	4,386	18	8	3,350	13	7	3,394	3	10	724	0	0
Licences	1,334	5	2	1,360	11	1	2,420	12	0	2,376	16	8	1,871	15	1	2,094	12	3	265	17	2
Rates	—			—			518	19	4	1,020	4	10	—			—			62	5	9
Miscellaneous	318	11	6	295	13	8	395	10	0	444	6	0	661	15	9	639	8	5	73	8	11
	6,905	8	5	6,100	0	3	11,190	1	2	12,080	5	4	9,265	11	8	10,266	4	9	1,125	11	10
Fees of Court, &c.	11,652	9	2	5,765	10	7	2,695	8	6	1,935	10	4	1,424	14	6	1,584	13	4	227	7	1
Municipal Rates and Taxes ...	—			—			345	2	6	342	3	3	—			—			—		
Post Office, &c.	2,615	8	9½	2,389	9	9½	2,128	12	9	2,033	10	4	1,579	16	5½	1,727	14	2½	705	1	8
Lime Industry	—			—			401	19	8	551	3	6	—			—			—		
Rents	140	15	5	138	2	9	258	4	5	354	0	4	79	9	1	105	12	8	6	19	3
Interest	36	3	6	19	18	6	156	19	10	228	15	10	118	13	5	109	8	7	1	8	0
Miscellaneous	484	11	1	55	18	7	199	5	6	114	3	2	211	11	1	128	14	1	20	19	2½
Land Sales	—			50	5	0	—			—			—			—			4	16	0
	48,798	0	9½	44,175	5	3½	47,145	2	7	49,613	17	0	31,200	10	3½	33,209	1	8½	7,433	6	7½

Comparative Statement of Revenue—cont.

Heads of Revenue.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.		Total for Colony.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1906–7.	1905–6.	1906–7.	1905–6.	1906–7.	1906–7.	1906–7.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs—							
Import Duties on other than alcoholic liquors.	3,521 14 0	573 19 3	620 14 5	54,090 13 6	57,963 18 7	3,873 5 1	—
Import Duties on alcoholic liquor	1,745 11 11	51 9 9	35 3 7	12,968 10 4	14,395 9 0	1,426 18 8	—
Export Duty	1,118 4 10	454 18 3	437 14 3	5,746 6 4	6,869 16 4	1,123 10 0	—
	6,385 10 9	1,080 7 3	1,093 12 3	72,805 10 2	79,229 3 11	6,423 13 9	—
Ports, Harbour Dues, &c.	152 0 7	47 7 7	32 3 10	8,916 15 0	9,351 2 4	434 7 4	—
Internal Revenue—							
Excise	22 2 2	—	—	8,516 19 4	8,252 18 7	—	264 0 9
Taxes	803 2 0	350 3 10	327 11 6	12,396 16 11	13,114 14 6	717 17 7	—
Licences	352 18 6	250 7 6	231 0 3	6,142 16 11	6,415 18 9	273 1 10	—
Rates	67 17 3	—	—	581 5 1	1,088 2 1	506 17 0	—
Miscellaneous	63 11 3	40 3 9	35 15 7	1,489 9 11	1,478 14 11	—	10 15 0
	1,309 11 2	640 15 1	594 7 4	29,127 8 2	30,350 8 10	1,497 16 5	274 15 9
Fees of Court, &c.	265 6 4	132 3 11	307 15 9	16,132 3 2	9,858 16 4	—	6,273 6 10
Municipal Rates and Taxes ...	—	—	—	345 2 6	342 3 3	—	2 19 3
Post Office, &c.	567 16 4½	547 18 4	365 10 3	7,576 18 0	7,084 0 11½	—	492 17 0½
Lime Industry	—	—	—	401 19 8	551 3 6	149 3 10	—
Rents	7 17 9	1 18 6	2 9 0	487 6 8	608 2 6	120 15 10	—
Interest	10 0 2	12 16 11	16 12 6	326 1 8	384 15 7	58 13 11	—
Miscellaneous	25 8 0	14 6 3	11 4 5	930 13 1½	335 8 3	—	595 4 10½
Land Sales	8 0 0	0 8 0	1 4 0	5 4 0	59 9 0	54 5 0	—
	8,731 11 1½	2,478 1 10	2,424 19 4	137,055 2 1½	138,154 14 5½	8,738 16 1	7,639 3 9

Net increase ... ... £1,099 12*s.* 4*d.*

TABLE II.—*Comparative Statement of the Expenditure in each Presidency of the Colony in the Years* 1905–6 *and* 1906–7.

	Heads of Expenditure.	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Montserrat.
		1905–6.	1906–7.	1905–6.	1906–7.	1905–6.	1906–7.	1905–6.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Charges on Account of Public Debt	6,885 0 1	6,815 13 3	3,688 19 8	3,606 9 8	3,375 0 0	3,375 0 0	585 9 10
2	Pensions	1,370 8 2	1,241 14 10	1,578 9 2	1,533 15 6	587 2 9	716 5 2	177 4 4
3	Legislature	75 0 0	229 9 9	—	—	59 12 0	53 19 2	—
4	Island Secretary (Commissioner)	184 3 2	174 16 1	955 4 9	925 18 8	1,375 19 3	1,151 5 8	630 7 8
5	Federal Contribution	2,971 2 1	2,850 11 7	3,018 0 5	2,873 5 3	2,286 19 7	2,181 8 2	512 1 9
6	Treasury and Customs	1,592 6 10	1,504 13 9	1,884 14 10	2,111 17 4	2,150 15 7	2,120 14 11	486 8 2
7	Audit	23 3 7	21 7 6	—	—	6 0 0	6 0 0	—
8	Port and Marine	1,107 19 0	1,010 16 8	404 4 0	405 3 11	94 13 4	75 16 9	14 18 10
9	Registrar and Provost Marshal	686 2 10	699 13 3	748 2 2	—	608 19 6	584 3 3	39 17 1
	Magistrates	920 5 0	920 12 0	1,607 3 4	2,430 5 4	843 10 4	844 3 10	12 0 0
10	Police	3,277 0 11	3,095 7 2	2,957 14 10	3,078 16 3	1,815 18 1	1,194 9 9	1,010 0 2
11	Prisons	2,856 12 2	2,495 10 9	1,008 8 2	858 10 10	1,169 13 10	913 10 9	122 12 9
12	Medical	2,068 5 4	1,959 9 1	1,968 15 0	1,845 5 11	1,679 7 7	1,662 10 6	494 0 7
13	Hospitals	7,452 9 3	7,178 9 1	6,903 6 10	6,517 12 0	2,643 7 9	2,759 12 11	536 5 2
14	Education	1,915 6 1	1,883 12 6	2,416 12 6	2,444 18 0	2,651 15 7	2,727 10 6	714 14 6
15	Ecclesiastical	—	—	256 0 0	256 0 0	—	—	446 18 6
16	Board of Health	2,604 1 9	2,642 15 10	1,865 2 11	2,910 11 8	149 17 10	123 1 8	167 9 6
17	Registration and Vaccination	218 3 5	256 6 11	480 13 0	487 11 9	51 10 0	47 0 0	74 13 8
18	Public Market	—	—	35 11 4	39 14 0	—	—	34 1 7
19	Public Library	—	—	60 0 0	100 0 0	75 0 0	150 0 0	10 0 0
20	Laboratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21	Military	532 17 1	363 15 2	759 11 8	657 10 8	204 12 2	71 2 5	64 9 6
22	Miscellaneous	1,131 13 8	1,033 15 7	1,411 1 3	1,867 1 1	1,969 11 10	2,013 16 5	310 0 3
23	Post Office	1,415 3 2	1,142 0 7	1,159 14 8	1,203 10 7	897 15 8½	833 11 1	145 3 9
	Telegraphs	500 0 0	375 0 0	511 13 9	524 16 1	400 0 0	400 0 0	—
	Telephones	741 13 11	715 12 0	580 12 8	552 7 4	491 9 6	768 6 1	—
23a	Electric Lighting	—	—	—	—	174 4 6	311 11 9	—
24	Public Works Department	996 14 6	982 14 1	1,095 18 10	1,122 11 4	667 4 0	662 3 2	16 0 0
25	" Recurrent	3,363 19 2	3,214 17 7	3,415 14 11	3,747 4 1	2,305 2 4	2,199 13 9	455 2 1
26	" Extraordinary	2,532 16 6	1,285 17 6	2,821 10 10	848 7 5	5,139 10 8	814 2 7	—
27	Barbuda	567 18 3	567 18 3	—	—	—	—	—
28	Local Department of Agriculture	621 14 5	533 19 9	—	70 8 2	312 1 0	643 12 5	56 18 10
29	Repayment of Loans	5,771 0 0	—	250 0 0	2,900 0 0	—	—	—
30	Forestry Department	—	—	182 17 2	147 10 0	—	—	—
	from Loan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	54,383 0 4	45,206 10 6	44,025 18 8	46,067 2 10	34,186 14 8½	30,114 12 9	7,106 18 6

Comparative Statement of Expenditure—cont.

	Heads of Expenditure.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.		Total for Colony.		Increase.	Decrease.
		1906-7.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1906-7.	1906-7.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Charges on Account of Public Debt	594 9 10	—	—	14,534 9 7	14,391 12 9	—	142 16 10
2	Pensions	130 16 5	50 0 8	61 1 5	3,763 5 1	3,683 13 4	—	79 11 9
3	Legislature	—	—	—	134 12 0	283 8 11	148 16 11	—
4	Island Secretary (Commissioner)	672 4 9	528 19 2	589 13 3	3,664 14 0	3,513 18 5	—	150 15 7
5	Federal Contribution	502 16 8	109 9 7	105 17 0	8,897 13 5	8,513 18 8	—	383 14 9
6	Treasury and Customs	530 11 6	379 9 6	429 14 10	6,493 14 11	6,697 12 4	203 17 5	—
7	Audit	—	—	—	29 3 7	27 7 6	—	1 16 1
8	Port and Marine	13 8 7	—	—	1,621 15 2	1,505 5 11	—	116 9 3
9	Registrar and Provost Marshal	28 17 9	9 18 7	10 9 6	2,093 0 2	1,323 3 9	2,128 13 5	—
	Magistrates	12 0 0	14 11 6	14 12 5	3,397 10 2	4,221 13 7	—	2,074 6 5
10	Police	789 15 1	89 0 1	79 17 7	9,149 14 1	8,958 5 10	—	191 8 3
11	Prisons	87 16 8	112 17 11	89 19 6	5,270 4 10	4,445 8 6	—	824 16 4
12	Medical	438 19 0	48 4 9	38 9 3	6,258 13 3	5,944 13 9	—	313 19 6
13	Hospitals	614 1 6	364 11 3	240 17 6	17,900 0 3	17,310 13 0	—	589 7 3
14	Education	709 9 9	137 4 3	136 16 0	7,835 12 11	7,902 6 9	66 13 10	—
15	Ecclesiastical	225 17 0	—	—	702 18 6	481 17 0	—	221 1 6
16	Board of Health	172 18 5	5 0 0	5 0 0	4,791 12 0	5,854 7 7	1,062 15 7	—
17	Registration and Vaccination	102 16 10	24 13 4	19 4 6	849 13 5	913 0 0	63 6 7	—
18	Public Market	33 11 2	—	—	69 12 11	73 5 2	3 12 3	—
19	Public Library	—	—	—	145 0 0	250 0 0	105 0 0	—
20	Laboratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21	Military	49 4 11	—	—	1,561 10 5	1,141 13 2	—	419 17 3
22	Miscellaneous	227 18 8	80 17 3	81 9 10	4,903 4 3	5,224 1 7	320 17 4	—
23	Post Office	93 1 2	67 10 3	53 7 1	3,685 7 6¼	3,325 10 6	—	359 17 0¾
	Telegraphs	—	—	—	1,411 13 9	1,299 16 1	—	111 17 8
	Telephones	—	—	—	1,813 16 1	2,026 5 5	212 9 4	—
23a	Electric Lighting	—	—	—	174 4 6	311 11 9	137 7 3	—
24	Public Works Department	14 0 0	—	—	2,775 17 4	2,791 8 8	15 11 4	—
25	" Recurrent	478 18 4	60 6 0	41 4 10	9,600 4 6	9,681 18 7	81 14 1	—
26	" Extraordinary	—	429 5 3	34 0 10	10,923 3 3	2,982 8 4	—	7 940 14 11
27	Barbuda	—	—	—	567 18 3	567 18 3	—	—
28	Local Department of Agriculture	53 19 9	—	—	990 14 3	1,302 0 1	311 5 10	—
29	Repayment of Loans	—	—	—	6,021 0 0	2,900 0 0	—	3,121 0 0
30	Forestry Department	—	—	—	182 17 2	147 10 0	—	35 7 2
	from Loan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	6,577 13 9	2,511 19 4	2,031 15 4	142,214 11 6¼	129,997 15 2	4,862 1 2	17,078 17 6¾

TABLE III.—GENERAL GOVERNMENT OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1907.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Dominica	536 18 1		Cash	610 19 0	
St. Kitts-Nevis	549 17 5		Crown Agents' Account	87 18 11	
Imperial Government	241 12 3				698 17 11
		1,328 7 9	Antigua	150 18 1	
Canada Money Order Account ...		534 2 4	Montserrat	77 15 5	
Land Assurance Deposit Account ...		2,538 12 7	Virgin Islands	37 15 3	
					266 8 9
			Bermuda Money Order Account ...	8 2	
			Jamaica	10 16 0	
					11 4 2
			H. A. Tempany	6 7	
			W. D. Auchinleck	3 15 0	
			Private Secretary	6 3 0	
			E. A. Foster...	222 9 7	
			P. O. Guarantee Fund	6 10 11	
			Police Reward Fund	20 11 10	
			C. M. Martin	12 8	
			E. B. Jarvis...	15 0 0	
					275 9 7
			Agricultural Department Suspense Account	2 0 0	
			General Account	241 12 3	
					243 12 3
			Land Assurance Investment Account		2,400 0 0
			Drafts and Remittances		505 10 0
		£4,401 2 8			£4,401 2 8

Antiqua—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31*st March*, 1907.

Liabilities.	Amount.			Assets.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Deposits on Account, Money Orders	280	15	1	Advances on Account, Money Orders	823	12	3
" " Botanic Station Account, Seeds.	16	9	9½	" " City Board Account, Body Ponds.	56	5	0
" " To cover Duties	15	9	0	" " Cotton Loans	731	2	1
" " Registrar of Courts ...	2,239	9	1	" " Government of Trinidad...	26	14	0
" " Registrar and Provost Marshal.	9	4	7	" " Administrator of Unrepresented Estates.	12	0	5
" " Revenue Defence Fund ...	47	1	8	" " Purchase of Wire Gauze...	8	17	3
" " City Fund	26	6	1	" " Cotton Experiments in Barbuda.	424	18	4
" " Prison Officers' Fine Fund	27	9	9	" " Personal, Public Officers ...	25	0	0
" " Barbuda Account	302	14	3	Balances due by Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis...	243	11	6
" " Training School, Officers' Fine Fund.	16	10	1	" " " Dominica ...	167	5	6
" " Lunatic Asylum Fine Fund	1	16	5	" " " Virgin Islands ...	94	10	1
" " Skerretts Boys' earnings ...	0	6	1	London and Westminster Bank Deposits, Public Works.	185	8	2
Balance due to General Government, Leeward Islands.	150	18	1	Treasurer, Cash Balance	3,362	2	2½
" " Montserrat	1	0	1	Crown Agents' Current Account	467	15	0
Deposits on Account, Official Receiver Globe Premises.	525	0	0	" " Advance Account	1,500	0	0
" " Estate of Parkes, Finch, and Benjamin.	1	13	3				
" " Worn and Defaced Coin ...	0	0	2				
" " Unrepresented Estates ...	53	3	4				
" " Escheated Estates	251	19	7				
" " Bankruptcy Estates ...	106	19	2½				

Antigua—Statement of Assets and Liabilities—cont.

Liabilities.	Amount.	Assets.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Deposits on Account, Registrar's unclaimed Balances.	13 10 7		
" " Loan Works Account, Wallings.	185 8 2		
" " Unrepresented Estates Reserve Fund.	38 0 7		
" " U.K. Post Office Account...	135 15 1		
" " Selection of Cotton Seed ...	58 4 9		
" " Drafts and Remittances ...	27 0 0		
" " Botanic Department ...	44 9 1		
" " Stud Farm Fees	10 4 8		
	4,586 18 6		
Excess of Assets	3,542 3 9½		
	8,129 2 3½		8,129 2 3½

St. Kitts-Nevis—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31*st March*, 1907.

Liabilities.	Amount.		Assets.	Amount.	
Deposits—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Cash—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To secure Duties	98 2 3		Treasurer's		440 16 4
Revenue Defence Fund	154 11 1		Revenue Officer, Nevis		121 12 1
Provost Marshal	9 4 2		Magistrate, Anguilla...		11 17 6

Peasants' Cane—Nevis	56	5	0			
Unrepresented Estates	453	16	11			
" " Reserve Fund ...	1	0	9			
Prison Officers' Fine Fund	2	1	8			
Registrar of Courts	27	5	2			
Postal Orders	0	11	8			
Government of Jamaica	6	0	0			
				808	18	8
Money Order Accounts—						
United Kingdom	69	4	2			
Barbados	14	8	11			
Trinidad	57	16	4			
Jamaica	19	2	11			
				160	12	4
Balance due to—						
Family Remittances				8	6	8
Presidencies				272	4	8
Total Liabilities				1,250	2	4
Excess of Assets				12,577	18	11
				13,828	1	3

Crown Agents				1,156	6	5
Deposit at Interest in Colonial Bank				7,000	0	0
Advances—						
Crown Agents (at Interest)... ...				1,000	0	0
Cotton Loans of 1906				1,455	5	0
Cotton Growers, 1905 (L. I.) ...				980	14	10
Personal	70	5	10			
G. P. O., London	45	6	6			
Government of British Guiana ...	7	18	11			
General Government, Leeward Islands.	549	17	5			
Presidencies	46	13	7			
				720	2	3
Money Order Accounts—						
Leeward Islands	36	14	2			
Windward Islands	30	9	1			
British Guiana	1	8	8			
Bermuda	181	5	9			
United States...	666	6	6			
Canada...	20	3	0			
				936	7	2
Worn Coin in Transit				4	8	6
Total Assets				13,828	1	3
				13,828	1	3

Dominica.—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1907.

Liabilities.	Amount.						Assets.	Amount.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Deposits to be repaid to—													
Sundry Money Order Accounts	1,371	5	3				Cash				1,637	11	6½
Registrar and Marshal ...	28	16	9½				Investments by Crown Agents ...				2,620	1	0
Deposits to secure Duties ...	7	5	10				Drafts and Remittances				4,441	13	4
Plaintiffs' Costs	1	7	0				Advances—						
Prison Officers' Fine Fund ...	19	8	7				Sundry Money Order Accounts	10	5	5			
Revenue Defence Fund... ...	89	2	4				Other authorised advances ...	186	9	7			
Administrator Unrepresented Estates' Fees.	0	14	4								196	15	0
							Balances due by—						
Estate of the Rev. Berthomé ...	0	8	0				Crown Agents (Current Account).	123	14	7			
Government Officer Eastern District.	26	16	1										
Registrar of Courts	619	10	10½				General Government Leeward Islands.	536	18	1			
Colonial Engineer	26	17	3				Other Presidencies—						
				2,191	12	4	Montserrat	27	9	1			
Balances due to—							Virgin Islands	32	8	8			
His Majesty's Government ...	161	10	9				Crown Lands Fund	225	14	5			
Crown Agents (Advances) ...	1,800	0	0								946	4	10
Other Presidencies—													
Antigua	167	5	6										
St. Kitts-Nevis	7	19	0										
General Post Office, London ...	160	16	4										
				2,297	11	7							
				4,489	3	11							
Excess of Assets...				5,353	1	9½							
				£9,842	5	8½					£9,482	5	8½

Montserrat—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1907.

Liabilities.	Amount.						Assets.	Amount.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Botanical Department—							Advances—						
Advance Account				15	7	11	Botanical Department Suspense Account.	45	13	10			
Deposits—													
Provost Marshal	3	10	7				Savings Bank	550	0	0			
Escheated Estates	9	13	6				Medical Officer, District No. 1	3	12	9			
Unrepresented Estates	3	17	9				S. L. Athill	0	1	3			
To secure Duties...	5	1	4				Medical Officer, District No. 2	2	17	4			
Pound Fees	0	0	6				United Kingdom Post Office Account.	67	16	7			
Savings Bank	3	17	11										
Botanical Department	30	15	11				Under Cotton Industry Aid Act.	138	0	0			
Commissioner	12	6	7										
				69	4	1	Colony of Trinidad	10	15	4			
General Government				77	15	6	Schooner "Viola" of Barbados	1	14	4			
Presidency of Dominica				27	9	1					820	11	5
Money Orders—							Crown Agents—						
United Kingdom	23	16	0				Advanced at Interest... ...				700	0	0
Canada	380	1	2				Current Account				1,133	16	0
Bermuda	6	12	0				Cash				190	15	9½
Jamaica	4	16	6				Presidency of Antigua				1	0	1
Leeward Islands...	22	2	0				" " St. Kitts-Nevis ...				28	13	2
				437	7	8	Drafts and Remittances				294	1	1
							Money Orders—						
				627	14	3	United States	275	17	3			
Excess of Assets... ...				2,980	12	0½	" "	3	3	8			
							British Guiana...	45	9	2			
							Trinidad	30	19	3			

Montserrat—Statement of Assets and Liabilities—cont.

Liabilities.	Amount.		Assets.	Amount.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Money Orders—*cont.*	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
			Barbados	42 12 9	
			Windward Islands	41 6 8	439 8 9
		£3,608 6 3½			£3,608 6 3½

Virgin Islands—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1907.

Liabilities.	Amount.		Assets.	Amount.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Advances—			Deposits—		
General Government	37 15 3		Cotton Account	131 16 2	
Antigua	94 10 1		Crown Agents Investment Account	500 0 0	631 16 2
St. Kitts-Nevis	38 14 7		Colonial Bank—		
Dominica	32 8 8		Antigua...	300 0 0	
H.M. Postmaster-General	4 15 1	208 3 8	St. Thomas	0 9 4	
Agricultural Department		68 15 11	Crown Agents' Current Account ...	2 9 4	
			Treasurer	2 11 1	305 9 9

Deposits—					
Unrepresented Estates Account ...	1 10 7		Sundry Money Order Accounts ...		10 13 10
Unrepresented Reserve Fund Account.	8 0 9				
Provost Marshal's Account ...	1 4 11				
Agricultural Department Produce Account.	12 3 5				
Prize Money Account	2 8 3				
Agricultural Show Account ...	0 8 0				
To secure Duties	6 0 0				
Postmaster's Stamp Account ...	0 13 3				
		32 9 2			
Drafts and Remittances Account ...		109 4 2			
Sundry Money Order Accounts ...		77 13 3			
Excess of Assets		451 13 7			
		£947 19 9			£947 19 9

TABLE IV.

Principal Exports.

Articles of Export.		1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.		Increase 1906 over 1905.		Decrease 1906 under 1905.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£		£		£		£		£		£		£
Sugar ...	Tons	30,339	176,691	25,020	170,695	24,667	211,026	20,414	191,771	25,571	179,201	5,157	—	—	12,570
Molasses	Puns.	10,891	12,383	9,501	32,447	8,133	17,806	7,223	28,063	7,431	17,711	208	—	—	10,352
Rum ...	Galls.	82,296	2,774	16,435	611	20,523	764	26,654	1,345	17,014	841	—	—	9,640	504
Coffee ...	Lbs.	4,404	106	3,659	92	1,298	28	2,003	50	2,174	53	171	3	—	—
Cocoa ...	Lbs.	1,332,024	28,442	970,732	20,730	1,087,751	20,980	1,299,579	25,056	1,268,350	34,866	36,229	9,810	—	—
Limes and Lime Juice.		—	47,824	—	24,608	—	35,943	—	44,557	—	59,127	—	14,570	—	—
Total ...		—	268,220	—	249,183	—	286,547	—	290,842	—	291,799	—	24,383	—	23,426

TABLE V.

Summary showing Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared.

—	British.						Foreign.					
	Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.			Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.		
	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.
Antigua	259,103	257,327	516,430	5,502	5,471	10,973	—	—	—	5,882	5,850	11.732
St. Kitts	250,768	250,768	501,536	4,211	4,539	8,750	15,864	15,864	31,728	6,296	6,278	12,574
Nevis	29,886	29,886	59,772	300	334	634	—	—	—	364	382	746
Anguilla	—	—	—	4,708	4,155	8,863	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dominica	232,927	232,927	465,854	5,166	4,997	10,163	176	176	352	2,650	2,650	5,300
Montserrat	149,592	147,637	297,229	4,894	4,813	9,707	—	—	—	1,132	1,179	2,311
Virgin Islands	—	—	—	5,154	6,258	11,412	—	—	—	587	600	1,187
Total	922,276	918,545	1,840,821	29,935	30,567	60,502	16,040	16,040	32,080	16,911	16,939	33,850

TABLE VI.

Receipts and Expenditure for Postal Services for the Last Five Years.

Receipts.

Year.	Sale of Stamps, &c.	Commission on Money Orders.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1902	5,255	406	48	5,779
1903	7,196	515	51	7,762
1904	5,362	516	47	5,925
1905	5,862	448	42	6,352
1906	4,870	447	56	5,373

Expenditure.

Year.	Salaries, &c.	Conveyance of Mails.	Total.
	£	£	£
1902	2,672	2,734	5,406
1903	4,093	2,742	6,835
1904	2,669	2,311	4,980
1905	2,514	1,319	3,833
1906	2,773	612	3,385

TABLE VII.

The following table gives the Statistics for the various Hospitals of the Colony :—

Hospitals.	Number in Hospital on 1st January, 1906.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not Improved.	
Antigua	173	1,303	653	392	7	258
Cunningham (St. Kitts)	96	993	604	162	122	104
Nevis	37	135	—	129	—	14
Dominica	66	528	445	39	6	43
Montserrat	4	40	15	15	4	6

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
506	Mauritius	1905
507	Southern Nigeria (Lagos)	”
508	Somaliland	1905–1906
509	Fiji	1905
510	St. Vincent	1905–1906
511	Sierra Leone	1905
512	Southern Nigeria	”
513	Basutoland	1905–1906
514	British Guiana	”
515	British Honduras	1905
516	Northern Nigeria	1905–1906
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	”
518	Leeward Islands	”
519	East Africa Protectorate	”
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	”
522	Falkland Islands	”
523	Ashanti	”
524	Jamaica	1905–1906
525	Uganda	”
526	St. Helena	1906
527	Ceylon	”
528	Bermuda	”
529	Gibraltar	”
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	”
531	Sierra Leone	”
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906–1907
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast	”
535	Malta	1906–1907
536	Gambia	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906–1907
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	”

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate	Report on Kenia Forests.
42	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1905–6.

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1907.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 591.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1907-8.

(For Report for 1906-7, *see* No. 539.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
December, 1908.

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No. 591.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1906-7, *see* No. 539.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Antigua,
15th October, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a Report by Mr. Edward B. Jarvis, Acting Colonial Secretary, on the Blue Book of the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1907-8.

I have, &c.,
BICKHAM SWEET-ESCOTT,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1907-8.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year 1907-8 (exclusive of grants in aid of the Agricultural Department from the Imperial Government amounting to £3,935 8*s.* 9*d.*) was £152,608 14*s.* 10½*d.*, showing a net increase of £14,454 0*s.* 5*d.* over that for the previous financial year.

The following table shows the amount of revenue collected in each Presidency, exclusive of Imperial Grants in aid of the Agricultural Department, during the last five years, as also the increase or decrease in 1907-8 as compared with 1906-7:—

Presidency.	1903–4.	1904–5.	1905–6.	1906–7.	1907–8.
	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ...	43,812	44,295	48,798	44,175	50,620
St. Kitts-Nevis	39,127	43,905	47,145	49,613	49,336
Dominica ...	31,443	30,982	31,200	33,209	38,999
Montserrat ...	7,599	7,237	7,433	8,732	10,232
Virgin Islands ...	2,167	2,503	2,478	2,425	3,421*
Total ...	124,148	128,922	137,054	138,154	152,608

* The revenue of the Virgin Islands includes a sum of £1,085 received from the purchase of cotton and cotton seed in connection with the cotton industry.

Presidency.	Increase 1907-8 over 1906-7	Decrease 1907-8 under 1906-7.
	£	£
Antigua	6,445 ...	—
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	— ...	277
Dominica	5,790	—
Montserrat	1,500 ...	—
Virgin Islands ...	996 ...	—
Total ...	£14,731 ...	£277

The Imperial grants in aid of the Agricultural Department were as follows:—

	£
Antigua	904
St. Kitts-Nevis	1,015
Dominica	866
Montserrat	600
Virgin Islands	550
Total	£3,935

Net increase of revenue in 1907-8 as compared with 1906-7, £14,454.

The following is a return showing the number of licences issued in the Leeward Islands in 1907 for the sale of intoxicating liquors, and the revenue derived therefrom:—

Presidency	No. of licences issued for sale of intoxicating liquors.	Revenue derived therefrom. £	s.	d.
Antigua ...	... 15	611	0	0
St. Kitts-Nevis	... 51	2,019	0	0
Dominica	... 101	981	0	0
Montserrat	... 31	127	10	0
Virgin Islands	... 18	31	0	0
	216	£3,769	10	0

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year 1907-8, exclusive of Imperial grants in aid of the Agricultural Department, was £136,048, as against £129,998 for the year 1907, showing an increase of £6,050.

The following table shows the expenditure of each Presidency for each of the last five years, as also the increase or decrease in 1907-8 as compared with 1906-7:—

Presidency.	1903–4.	1904–5.	1905–6.	1906–7.	1907–8.	Increase 1907–8 over 1906–7.	Decrease 1907–8 under 1906–7.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ..	50,209	48,670	54,383	45,207	46,968	1,761	—
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	44,782	43,063	44,026	46,067	46,121	54	—
Dominica	31,331	31,033	34,187	30,114	30,620	506	—
Montserrat	9,364	8,361	7,107	6,578	8,516*	1,938	—
Virgin Islands ..	2,342	2,431	2,511	2,032	3,823†	1,791	—
Total	138,028	133,558	142,214	129,998	136,048	6,050	—

---

* Includes £500 repaid to Imperial Government on account of unexpended balance of Imperial grant-in-aid of Revenue.

† Includes a sum of £1,772 expended on the cotton industry.

The expenditure on the Agricultural Department was as follows:—

	£
Antigua	935
St. Kitts-Nevis	1,049
Dominica	866
Montserrat	591
Virgin Islands	544
Total	£3,985

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

There was a surplus of assets over liabilities on the 31st of March, 1908, in Antigua of £3,652, in St. Kitts-Nevis of £15,669, in Dominica of £13,731, in Montserrat of £4,697, and in the Virgin Islands of £736, making a total surplus for the whole Colony of £38,485.

In Antigua, the surplus of assets was really £7,194, but out of that £3,542, the unexpended balance of the grant-in-aid for the year 1906-7 to Antigua, is repayable to the Imperial Treasury. The net surplus to Antigua may therefore be correctly stated as £3,652.

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Pesidencies, amounts to £273,850.

The debt of the Colony has been reduced by the following amounts during the year:—

St. Kitts-Nevis—Basseterre Improvement Loan	£600
Antigua—St. John's Savings Bank Loan ...	200
Total	£800

The following table shows the amount of the loans raised and the sums standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds at 31st March, 1908:—

Presidency.	Total amount of loans raised.	Amount to credit of Sinking Fund.
Antigua ...	£135,140	... £34,989
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	76,000	... 13,604
Dominica ...	65,000	... 13,985
Montserrat ...	11,100	... 2,037
	287,240	64,615
Less amount repaid	13,390	—
Total ...	£273,850	£64,615

(F.) MUNICIPALITIES.

By Ordinance No. 1 of 1907, which came into operation on the 1st of May, 1907, the government of the City of Saint John, Antigua, which had been until then administered by the Saint John's City Board, under Ordinance No. 5 of 1898, was vested in five Commissioners, two of whom must be persons not holding any office or emolument under the Crown.

Town Boards also exist in Basseterre, St. Kitts, and Roseau, Dominica.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports.

The total value of imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1907, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £499,990, as against £407,251 in 1906, being an increase of £92,739.

The following table shows the total value of imports for the last five years, distinguishing the countries from which the imports came, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1907, as compared with the previous year:—

Country whence imported.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907	Increase 1907 over 1906.	Decrease 1907 under 1906.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	168,700	175,546	177,119	178,587	231,018	52,431	—
British Colonies	61,716	56,541	62,019	68,227	74,844	6,617	—
United States of America	140,240	144,026	151,968	147,020	177,282	30,262	—
Other Foreign Countries	7,044	12,109	12,375	13,417	16,846	3,429	—
Total	377,700	388,222	403,481	407,251	499,990	92,739	—

Net increase in value of imports in 1907, as compared with 1906, £92,739.

The internal trade between the Presidencies shows a total value of goods exchanged or imported of £17,434, as against £16,501 for the year 1906, being an increase of £933.

The figures for the quinquennial period 1903 to 1907 are as follows:—

Year.	Amount.
1903	£16,580
1904	13,851
1905	17,325
1906	16,501
1907	17,434

Exports.

The total value of exports for the year 1907, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, was £516,861, as against £399,208 in 1906, being an increase of £117,653.

The following table gives the total value of exports during each of the last five years, distinguishing the countries to which the various articles were exported, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1907 as compared with 1906:—

Countries to which exported.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	Increase 1907 over 1906.	Decrease 1907 under 1906.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	67,178	79,256	122,970	161,614	214,857	53,243	—
British Colonies	152,075	175,458	226,593	178,445	236,670	58,225	—
United States of America	74,467	61,851	40,239	43,143	45,700	2,557	—
Other Foreign Countries	17,749	18,725	58,192	16,006	19,634	3,628	—
Total	311,469	335,290	447,994	399,208	516,861	117,653	—

The following table shows the export of sugar from each Presidency during the last ten years:—

Presidency.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	6,928	10,041	7,603	9,091	12,596	10,471	11,940	7,776	9,996	13,972
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	12,387	11,943	7,451	12,133	16,597	13,490	12,167	12,312	15,142	14,132
Dominica	339	278	107	152	148	214	129	181	82	107
Montserrat	411	553	223	579	996	845	429	134	351	207
Virgin Islands ..	—	—	—	35	2	—	2	11	—	1
Total	20,065	22,815	15,384	21,990	30,339	25,020	24,667	20,414	25,571	28,419

The following is a return of cotton exported from the Presidencies of Antigua (including Barbuda), St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands, during the years 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, and to 31st March, 1908:—

Presidency.	1903.		1904.		1905.	
	Lbs.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.
		£		£		£
Antigua ...	151	11	27,847	1,508	54,720	3,192
St. Kitts-Nevis	22,880	1,716	86,748	6,506	163,778	12,283
Montserrat ...	35,657	2,674	27,606	2,070	82,312	6,173
Virgin Islands	—	—	1,300	30	4,100	135
Total ...	58,688	4,401	143,501	10,114	304,910	21,783

Presidency.	1906.		1907.		To 31st March, 1908.	
	Lbs.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.
		£		£		£
Antigua ...	99,948	6,455	191,220	17,479	98,100	7,766
St. Kitts-Nevis	298,519	22,389	465,445	38,472	276,558	21,894
Montserrat ...	86,698	6,502	219,280	16,446	246,345	19,502
Virgin Islands	6,975	205	10,033	440	9,156	725
Total ...	492,140	35,551	885,978	72,837	630,159	49,887

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There is in Dominica one sulphur mine, at Souffriere, and phosphates are found in the islands of Redonda and Barbuda.

There is an interesting old mine in Virgin Gorda (one of the Virgin Islands group), which consists of several "stringers" of chalcopyrite carrying copper and possibly gold. Molybdenum exists and grey copper ore has been mined.

Manufactures.

Sugar is the principal manufacture of the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts, and in the latter Presidency the manufacture of rum is of some importance.

Lime juice is manufactured in Dominica and Montserrat, and in both these islands a strong attempt is being made to improve still further the prospects of the lime industry by the manufacture of citrate of lime.

Fisheries.

There are no organized fisheries. In 1904 the legislation which protected turtles and turtle eggs during certain months in the year was repealed, as it was found impossible to enforce the law against the fishermen of other nationalities, and the French Colonies especially were unwilling to enter into reciprocal arrangements having for their object the protection of turtle on the lines obtaining in this Colony.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANIC STATIONS.

Agricultural activity has been well maintained during the year ending March 31st, 1908.

Sugar Industry.

The sugar crop of Antigua was 3,976 tons in excess of last year's crop. The St. Kitts' crop was up to the average, and prices were satisfactory. From Antigua there were shipped 5,437 tons of crystals and 8,535 tons of Muscovado sugar: from St. Kitts 483 tons of crystals and 13,649 tons of Muscovado. Much attention was given to the introduction of new and improved varieties of sugar canes.

At Antigua improvements were effected in several sugar works by the introduction of green-megass furnaces and the substitution of steam-pans for fire-heated tayches. The industry was carried on in a more critical spirit, and in several instances weighing machines were introduced for the purpose of obtaining accurate knowledge as to the quantity of cane produced and used.

The Central Sugar Factory at Gunthorpes produced 4,230 tons of sugar, using 9·64 tons of cane for each ton, and the financial results were satisfactory both to the factory and to the cane-growers.

Considerable improvements were also effected in the factory itself, notably in the introduction of a Krajewski cane crusher. The railway line was again extended and now links up the factory with the wharves in St. John's, thus saving all carting of sugar. 4,047 tons of peasants' canes were purchased at this factory during the season.

Bendal's sugar factory also had a successful campaign, making 1,359 tons of sugar. This factory purchased 6,192 tons of peasants' canes.

The prices paid for peasants' canes ranged from 7*s.* 8½*d.* to 9*s.* 5½*d.*

Cotton Industry.

The season at Antigua was not a propitious one and small crops were made; a newly-discovered pest, a maggot which causes the flower-buds to drop, occasioned considerable loss.

At St. Kitts the crop was a good one, there being an increase in the area planted. At Nevis, while the crop was not large, it was better than the two former years.

At Anguilla the cultivation of cotton has improved considerably; there are now two ginneries in the island worked by petroleum engines. One of these ginneries has been considerably enlarged during the past season.

An oil factory has been added to one of the ginneries at St. Kitts, and at Nevis there has been erected a complete plant comprising ginning and baling machinery, with an oil extracting and refining plant.

At Montserrat the cotton industry has greatly expanded; the area planted has been greatly increased, and this season's crop has been a large one. A new ginnery has been erected on the north end of the island.

Considerable strides have been made in the cotton industry of the Virgin Islands. The ginnery belonging to the Government has been enlarged, and an oil engine substituted for the aermotor for driving the gin. The cotton grown by the peasantry has been purchased by the Government, and under this system the quantity produced has been very largely increased.

The cotton industry has profoundly modified the conditions of life in many of the smaller islands, and has materially improved them in all of those into which it has been introduced.

The price obtained for cotton has not been so good as in former years, and sales have not been so readily effected.

Lime Industry.

In Dominica this industry continues to expand, the crop of 1907 being 272,229 barrels—the largest gathered in Dominica, being an increase of 32,000 barrels of fruit over the crop of 1906. The plantations were unaffected by blight, and the weather conditions throughout the year were perfect. Concentrated juice sold at higher rates than have been known for many years past. At no previous period has greater confidence been shown in the industry than at the present time. The area under lime cultivation was considerably extended, it being estimated that from 400 to 450 acres were planted during the year.

Green Limes.—The trade in green limes continues to expand. The export of this fruit from Dominica during 1907 was 18,311 barrels, valued at £6,409, being an increase of 2,512 barrels over the export of 1906. The bulk of this trade is with New York. Efforts were made by the Permanent Exhibition Committee during 1907 to bring lime fruits to the notice of the British public. An exhibit of limes was made at the Colonial Fruit Show held in London in June, and advertisements pointing out the merits of lime fruits were placed in the leading trade and medical journals.

Citrate of Lime.—There was a considerable increase in the export of this product during the year. During 1906, the first year in which citrate of lime was shipped from Dominica, the export was 733 cwts., valued at £1,503. During 1907 the figures were 2,388 cwts., valued at £7,761. At present citrate of lime is made by one firm who purchase raw lime juice for conversion into citrate. During the year a second firm made satisfactory experiments, and may shortly commence the manufacture of citrate of lime. The conversion of lime juice into citrate of lime may in the course of time take the place of the present system of concentrating lime juice for export. The latter process is wasteful, and involves a great loss of citric acid. In Montserrat the lime industry is steadily expanding, and has now resumed its former degree of importance. The manufacture of citrate of lime is carried on on an extensive scale, and is likely, in a large measure, to take the place of the production of concentrated lime juice. Several important improvements have been made in the manufacturing plant.

Cacao Industry.—The cacao output from Dominica showed a small increase of 248 cwts. over that of 1906. The price of cacao was very high during 1907, some sales of Dominica cacao obtaining as much as 120*s.* per cwt. Experiments in grafting cacao carried on by the Imperial Department of Agriculture during the past three years are now showing excellent results. Planters are much interested in them. It is possible that the grafting of selected varieties of cacao may in the course of time be adopted by planters for any further extension of cacao cultivation. Grafted plants will give an earlier return of crop on capital invested, and by the selection of prolific varieties the return per acre may be increased. There are now some forty acres of cacao in Nevis and over twenty acres in St. Kitts.

Rubber Industry.—The rapid development of the lime industry has prevented attention being given to rubber cultivation. But little planting of rubber was done during 1907. Samples of Castilloa rubber taken from trees growing at Stowe Estate and the Botanic Station, Dominica, were favourably reported on by brokers in London, which shows that the island can produce first-class rubber. The Agricultural Department imported a quantity of seed of the Para rubber from the East in order to raise plants for cultivation in Dominica.

Cassava Starch.—A factory for making starch was started in the Lasoye district of Dominica. Should this prove successful, the production of large quantities of this valuable starch will provide considerable employment among the native population in growing manioc tubers for sale to the factory.

I am indebted to the Honourable Dr. Watts, D.Sc., C.M.G., Superintendent of Agriculture, for the remarks under this heading.

(D.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

The value of land in the Colony varies in accordance with its suitability for sugar cane or other products. In Dominica Crown lands can be purchased at 10*s.* an acre. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane land varies from £4 to £8 an acre.

(E.) Shipping.

Comparing the figures with those for the year 1906, there is an increase of 58,756 tons in steam vessels and a decrease of

5,689 tons in sailing vessels entered and cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1907.

The following table shows the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in each Presidency during each of the last five years, including both steam and sailing vessels, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1907 as compared with 1906:—

Presidency.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	Increase 1907 over 1906.	Decrease 1907 under 1906.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	514,846	625,221	560,297	539,135	567,678	28,543	—
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	558,168	590,349	596,993	624,603	620,435	–	4,168
Dominica	510,452	554,776	584.249	481,669	508,631	26,962	—
Montserrat	295,117	386,356	417,133	309,247	309,778	531	—
Virgin Islands ..	13,197	13,011	13,800	12,599	13,796	1,197	—
Total	1,891,780	2,169,713	2,172,472	1,967,253	2,020.318	57,233	4,168

III.—LEGISLATION.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

The General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands was in session from the 16th May, 1907 to the 22nd of the same month. Thirteen Acts were passed, the most important of which are "The Bank Holidays Act, 1907," "The Bills of Exchange (Crossed Cheques) Act, 1907," "The Travelling Allowances Act, 1907," "The Judgments Act, 1907," "The Crown Suits Act, 1907," "The Arbitration Act, 1907," and "The Police Act, 1907."

Bank Holidays Act.—This Act consolidates Acts Nos. 5 of 1880, 1 of 1892, 12 of 1897, and 3 of 1904, with the following amendment:—"The ninth day of November has been removed from the list of Bank Holidays, and the anniversary of the birth of the Sovereign and the anniversary of the birth of the heir to the throne substituted."

Bills of Exchange Act.—This Act is a transcript of 6 Edward VII., Chap. 17.

Travelling Allowances Act.— This Act is a consolidation of Acts Nos. 12 of 1898, 3 of 1903, and 8 of 1904, with some slight amendments.

Judgments Act.—The practical effect of this Act is that decrees for the payment of money shall bind the lands of the judgment debtor after an application for an order for the sale of the land has been made. Lands brought under the Title by Registration Act are not affected.

The Crown Suits Act.—This Act re-enacts Sections 367 to 373, inclusive, of the Code of Civil Procedure Act, 1876 (L.I. Act No. 8 of 1876), which was repealed by the Supreme Court Civil Procedure Act, 1906, as it was not possible to make adequate provision under the new rules and orders in the latter Act for the conduct of suits by or against the Government.

The Arbitration Act.—The same remarks apply to the Act relating to arbitration, and the provisions of the Imperial Arbitration Act, 52 and 53 Vict., Chap. 49, have now been extended to this Colony.

The Police Act.—This Act consolidates all the laws relating to the police force of the Leeward Islands, with certain alterations and amendments.

ANTIGUA.

Ten Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of Antigua, the most important of these being "The Saint John's City Ordinance, 1907." None of the other Ordinances call for any remarks.

The Saint John's City Ordinance, 1907.—By Ordinance No. 1 of 1907, which came into operation on the 1st of May, 1907, the government of the city of Saint John, which had previously been administered by the Saint John's City Board under Ordinance No. 5 of 1898, was vested in five Commissioners, two of whom were required to be persons not holding any office or emolument under the Crown. By this Act the municipal authority was changed from an independent body to a department of the Government.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

The Legislative Council of St. Kitts-Nevis passed seven Ordinances during the year, none of which calls for special remark.

DOMINICA.

The Legislative Council of Dominica passed nine Ordinances during the year, among them being "The Citrate of Lime Ordinance" and "The Plants Protection Ordinance."

MONTSERRAT.

The Legislative Council of Montserrat passed 14 Ordinances during the year, the most important of which are "The Harbour Master's Ordinance, 1907," "The Export Duty Ordinance, 1907," "The Road Ordinance, 1907," and "The Cotton Traffic Ordinance, 1907." The last mentioned of these ordinances, entitled "An Ordinance to regulate the local traffic in cotton," makes provision to regulate the local sale and purchase of that commodity.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Five Ordinances were made by the Governor for the Virgin Islands during the year 1907, the most important of which are "The Births, Deaths, and Marriages Register Ordinance, 1907," "The Fumigation of Plants Ordinance, 1907," and "The Citrate of Lime Ordinance, 1907."

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The number of children on the rolls of the Government and State-aided primary schools for the year 1907-8 was 26,314, as against 26,627 for the year 1906-7. The average attendance was 12,222, as against 12,143 for the previous year.

In 1890, the year of the establishment of compulsory education there were only 12,000 on the roll, with an average attendance of 7,000.

The following table shows the number on the roll, the average attendance, school fees, Government Grant, and voluntary contributions during the last five years:—

—	1903–4.	1904–5.	1905–6.	1906–7.	1907–8.
Number on roll	26,317	26,854	26,326	26,627	26,314
Average attendance ...	12,352	12,591	11,801	12,143	12.222
	£	£	£	£	£
School fees	99	44	33	43	31
Government grant	6,375	6,245	6,362	5,993	6,951
Voluntary contributions ...	418	417	400	389	539

(B.) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The following is a list of the secondary education schools of the Colony with their respective grants from local funds:—

	£	s.	d.
Antigua Grammar School	£256	10	0(*a*)
St. Kitts Grammar School	216	16	0
Miss Wattley's School	75	0	0
Miss Bridgewater's School, Nevis ...	50	0	0
Antigua Girls' High School	125	0	0(*b*)
Dominica Grammar School	405	0	0
Spring Gardens Female Training College, Antigua (from Federal funds)	150	0	0

(*a*) Includes £50 for scholarships.
(*b*) Includes £25 for scholarships.

The following amounts are paid also from Imperial Funds:—

Antigua Grammar School—			
Agricultural and Science Master ...	£165	0	0
Allowance for quarters	15	0	0
Contingencies	15	0	0
Scholarships	70	0	0
St. Kitts Grammar School—			
Agricultural and Science Master ...	150	0	0
Scholarships	90	0	0

(C.) Industrial Schools.

There is one industrial school in the Colony, viz., the St. John's Training School in Antigua, to which boys are sent from all the Presidencies.

The number of boys at the beginning of the year was 55, four were admitted during the year, six were released on licence, and five were discharged.

The Presidencies contribute at the rate of £10 per annum for each boy sent to the School.

The receipts from all sources amounted to £266, and the expenditure to £411.

Agricultural Education.

Lessons and lectures in the secondary grade of agricultural instruction are given at the Antigua Grammar School by the Agricultural and Science Master, who is provided by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. This department also gives seven agricultural scholarships, which are tenable at that school, of the annual value of £10 each.

The lessons and lectures this year have comprised:—(1) Lessons in chemistry, agriculture, animal physiology, botany, and practical gardening at the Antigua Grammar School; (2) lessons in plant physiology and general science at the Girls' High School, lectures at the Female Training College on tropical hygiene, lectures to the elementary school teachers of the island on tropical hygiene. Every boy at the Grammar School takes at least one of the science subjects, so that about seventy boys attend the classes. The numbers in the classes from the Girls' High School are fifteen and nine respectively. From the Female Training College sixteen students attend the lectures, and of the elementary school teachers about fifteen have availed themselves of the opportunity to attend the lectures on tropical hygiene.

In the cases of the Female Training College and the elementary teachers, the work has for its object the improvement and extension of the teaching of science subjects in elementary schools.

DOMINICA AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL.

The school is maintained by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. The full complement of boys is 20.

The pupils, who are in most cases the sons of peasant proprietors, are drawn from the elementary schools in the island and must be between the ages of 14 and 16. Upon passing an entrance examination the boys are admitted upon three months' probation, and if during that period they show a natural aptitude for agriculture, they are kept in residence at the school for a period of three to five years.

In addition to receiving a general elementary education they receive a thorough practical training in agriculture and its allied sciences.

Three and a half hours each day are devoted to practical work in the field. The school grounds—some 40 odd acres in extent, of which 11 acres are cultivated by the boys—provide ample accommodation for the growing of the staple products of the island, in addition to the raising of ground provisions for consumption at the school. Such operations as budding, grafting, pruning, and spraying receive special attention. This field work is conducted as far as possible on approved estate lines.

Four hours each day are devoted to lessons in the schoolroom, where the boys are taught the principles which govern the operations performed by them in the field.

A small stud farm is maintained to give practical instruction in the management and rearing of improved breeds of animals. Since the opening of the school in December, 1900, 37 boys have completed their training and are now occupying positions as overseers, &c., on estates, or are engaged in working on their parents' properties.

It is gratifying to be able to state t [illegible] demand for good working boys from the school continues, [illegible] up to the present has exceeded the supply.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

In the year 1907, 3,292 patients were admitted into the hospitals of the Colony.

There were 420 deaths.

(B.) LUNATIC ASYLUM.

There is a central lunatic asylum for the Colony in Antigua. On the 1st of January, 1907, there were 119 inmates, 32 were admitted during the year, 19 were cured, and 30 died.

(C.) LEPER ASYLUMS.

There are two leper asylums in the Colony—one at Rat Island, in Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles, in St. Kitts.

In Antigua there were 40 lepers in the asylum at the beginning of the year; two were admitted during the year and four died.

In St. Kitts there were 62 lepers at the beginning of the year; three were admitted during the year and five died.

There is no record, in Antigua at any rate, of any attendant of the asylums having contracted leprosy.

(D.) POOR-HOUSE.

The number of inmates in the Antigua Poor-House on the 1st of January, 1907, was 109 (35 males and 74 females); 24 inmates were admitted during the year, and 20 were discharged.

The number of persons receiving outdoor relief in Antigua was 560, the total amount distributed being £430 13*s.* 10*d.*

(E.) SAVINGS BANK.

The number of depositors and the amounts to their credit on the 31st December, 1907, are given in the table below:—

Antigua ...	No. 2,056 ...	£46,218
St. Kitts ...	,, 579 ...	16,304
Nevis	,, 57 ...	2,487
Dominica	,, 547 ...	10,402
Montserrat	,, 197 ...	3,874
Virgin Islands	,, 97 ...	384
Total ...	No. 3,533	£79,669

The following table shows the number of depositors and the amounts deposited and withdrawn in the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Deposited.	Withdrawn.
		£	£
1903	2,731	21,443	22,252
1904	2,930	22,195	21,390
1905	3,050	24,702	23,616
1906	3,045	27,017	25,183
1907	3,533	36,666	27,777

The total amount of invested funds is £69,919.

The amount to the credit of depositors in the savings banks of the Colony, which on the 31st December, 1906, amounted to £68,168, had risen on the 31st December, 1907, to £79,669.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The armed force of the Leeward Islands numbered on the 1st January, 1907, a total strength of five officers and 162 men, stationed as follows:—

Antigua (including Barbuda)—One officer and 49 non-commissioned officers and men.

St. Kitts-Nevis—Two officers and 60 non-commissioned officers and men.

Dominica—One officer and 35 non-commissioned officers and men.

Montserrat—One officer and 14 non-commissioned officers and men.

Virgin Islands—Two men.

The men are armed with the Martini-Enfield rifle, and are a smart and well set-up body.

(B.) PRISONS.

The total number of persons committed to prison in the several gaols of the Colony during the year 1907 was 1,179 (560 males, 591 females, and 28 juveniles).

The total number of prisoners received during the year at the Central Prison, Antigua, was 105 males and 103 females.

Eleven males and one female were received from the other Presidencies, as follows:—

Presidency.	Males.	Females.	Total.
St. Kitts-Nevis	4	1	5
Dominica	5	—	5
Montserrat	—	—	—
Virgin Islands	2	—	2
Total	11	1	12

The prisoners were employed in the usual duties of the prison, such as cooking for the prisoners, baking bread for the hospital, poor-house, lunatic and leper asylums, St. John's Training School, and the prison; making and mending clothing and bedding for the prison and St. John's Training School; also in quarrying, stone-breaking, smithy work, masonry, and carpentry.

The cost of each prisoner was at the rate of £27 9*s.* 11½*d.* per annum.

No prisoners died during the year.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The following table gives the total number of offences reported to the police during each of the last five years, together with convictions and acquittals in each year:—

Year.	Offences Reported.	Convicted.	Acquitted, died, awaiting trial, or *nolle prosequi* entered.
1903	13,385	6,700	6,176
1904	13,862	7,660	4,318
1905	14,606	8,476	5,372
1906	14,227	6,665	6,726
1907	14,920	6,416	7,460

Of the offences reported, 3,945 were offences against the person, 601 for prædial larceny, 1,474 for offences against property (other than prædial larceny), and the remaining cases comprise all other offences.

Summary convictions were recorded against 6,416 persons in the Magistrates' Court, the number of convictions in the Superior Courts amounting to 26.

7,443 persons were acquitted in the Magistrates' Courts and 12 in the Superior Courts, and a nolle prosequi was entered in five cases.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The last census was taken in 1901, when the total population was returned at 127,434.

There were 4,926 births and 3,410 deaths during the year. Of the births, 1,868 were legitimate, and 3,058, or 62 per cent., illegitimate.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health during the year was very satisfactory. There were no epidemics of a serious nature.

(C.) CLIMATE.

Rainfall—Antigua.

Average rainfall, 1907, January to December, 43·45 inches.

Average rainfall 34 years, 1874-1907, 45·75 inches.

Highest rainfall recorded in any year, 73·59 inches, in 1889.

Lowest rainfall recorded in any year, 28·78 inches, in 1889.

Highest maximum temperature 1907, 91°.

Lowest minimum temperature 1907, 65°.

Three earthquakes were recorded in 1907—August 22nd, September 6th, and September 9th.

There are no records available for the other Presidencies.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) POST OFFICE.

The net profit on the working for the year was £2,172, as compared with £1,988 for the previous year.

The following table gives the statistics of postal matter sent to and from the Colony during the last five years:—

Year.	Letters and cards received and sent.	Books and papers received and sent.	Parcels received and sent.
1903	604,573	196,667	8,998
1904	662,516	200,872	10,112
1905	678,099	224,427	10,247
1906	641,963	218,808	10,127
1907	606,935	216,700	11,043

Comparing the figures for 1907 with those for 1906 we find a decrease of 35,028 letters and cards received and sent—2,108 books and papers received and sent, and an increase of 916 parcels received and sent.

The total value of money orders issued on the Colony was £23,759, as against £33,431 in 1906, and the value of orders paid for the Colony £20,860, as against £16,109.

(B.) Telegraphs.

The subsidies paid to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company amount to £1,400 per annum, of which Antigua pays £500, St. Kitts-Nevis £500, and Dominica £400.

There is no telegraphic communication with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands.

(C.) Telephones.

There are telephone services in the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica.

In Antigua there are 168 instruments in use and 350 miles of wire; in St. Kitts 97 instruments and 256 miles of wire; in Dominica 105 instruments and 400 miles of wire.

The receipts and expenditure for the year under review are as follows:—

Presidency.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
Antigua	£828 ...	£781
St. Kitts	444 ...	663
Dominica	458 ...	648

IX.—MILITARY FORCES.

Defence forces exist in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis.

A defence reserve force was established in Dominica during the year 1904, and a similar force at Montserrat.

X.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Mr. Justice Parker was appointed Puisne Judge of the Colony in place of Mr. Justice Danavall, retired.

XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

General Government.

The revival of prosperity in the Colony of the Leeward Islands as a whole is very gratifying, the total revenue for the financial year, exclusive of Imperial grants in aid of the Agricultural Departments, amounted to £152,608, the largest revenue which has ever been collected, and exceeded by no less a sum that £16,560 the expenditure, which amounted to £136,048. The surplus of assets of the five Presidencies over their liabilities, which on the 31st March, 1907, was £21,361, increased on the 31st March, 1908, to £38,485.

The general health of the Colony during the year was excellent and the absence of serious crime was a satisfactory feature. The number of prisoners transferred to the Central Prison in Antigua from the other Presidencies was about one-fourth of the average number received during the last ten years.

Antigua.

The financial year ending the 31st March, 1908, was a very satisfactory one in so far as Antigua was concerned, and the Presidency is to be congratulated on emerging from its dependence on Imperial assistance. The revenue amounted to no less a sum that £50,619 12*s.* 3*d.*, and the expenditure, exclusive of Imperial grants in aid of botanic stations, to £46,967 18*s.* 1*d.*, the revenue exceeding the expenditure by £3,651 14*s.* 2*d.*, and this amount represents the true assets of the Presidency on the 31st March, 1908.

The revenue for Antigua for the period under review is the largest that has been collected during the last 19 years, and exceeded the revenue of the previous financial year by £6,444 7*s.*, while the year 1907-8 is the first year since 1892 in which the local revenue has exceeded the expenditure. The Public Debt of Antigua amounts to £95,511, after deducting Sinking Fund, and were it not for the debt charges which Antigua has to pay annually, at present £6,874, an equilibrium between revenue and expenditure might for the future be confidently expected. The marked increase in the receipts from import duties points to the increased purchasing power of the community.

The amount of sugar exported was the largest for the past 10 years; it amounted to 13,972 tons, and was 3,976 tons in excess of the previous season's crop; while the cotton exported consisted of 191,220 lbs., valued at £17,479.

Owing to the continued emigration to Panama, where attractive rates of wages are offered to able-bodied labourers to work on the Canal, some difficulty has been experienced by the planters in obtaining that regular supply of labour on which their operations so largely depend. This condition of affairs has not been without good effects, as it has led to the more extensive use of labour-saving appliances for the cultivation and weeding of the land, and consequently to better methods of farming.

The health of the island was excellent.

There was a very satisfactory falling off in the number of prisoners committed to prison, which was the lowest for the last 17 years.

A new bake-house and kitchen combined, which was built during the year by the prisoners under the direction of the Chief Keeper, has added greatly to the appearance and efficiency of the institution.

The buildings at Rat Island formerly used as a lunatic asylum were altered, repaired, and converted into a leper asylum for both sexes. The lepers are now comfortably housed, and the old leper buildings have been demolished.

A large number of public buildings, including the Treasury, Public Library, Court House, and Post Office, were repaired and painted, and adequate attention, so far as funds permitted, was given to the maintenance of the roads and water supply throughout the island.

BARBUDA.

The revenue of Barbuda for the period under review was £2,115 13*s.* 10*d.*, and the expenditure £1,861 0*s.* 1*d.* Cotton continues to be grown in the island with success, and the area under cotton cultivation has been increased.

Two thoroughbred sires were imported from Jamaica during the year.

Excellent tarpon and other fishing may be had around the coast, and deer shooting may be obtained at a small cost. Wild guinea-fowl, pigeon, and duck are also plentiful.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

The general prosperity of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis has been maintained during the year under review, notwithstanding some unfavourable conditions. The unusually dry weather which prevailed from July to October, 1907, adversely affected the agricultural interests of the islands, and when rain came, as it did with extraordinary violence in October, much damage, involving considerable public expenditure, was caused. Again in the early days of March a storm of almost hurricane force broke over the islands constituting the Presidency, and caused much loss, both to private individuals and to public property. The effect of these occurrences will appear more fully in the short cane crops now being gathered, but, notwithstanding these misfortunes, the Presidency as a whole may fairly be regarded as being in a satisfactory condition. St. Kitts, blessed with a fertile soil and good water supply, may always count upon a fair measure of prosperity. Nevis is not so highly favoured. With her more difficult soil and meagre water supply she is often in trouble, and the gradual abandonment of the cultivation of cane is telling against her. She possesses, however, a large peasant proprietary, which as it grows and strengthens may yet do much towards improving the circumstances of the island. Special means have been adopted recently for providing instruction for the people in the cultivation of the cotton plant, and steps are being taken to provide means for the improvement of their stock, of which considerable numbers are raised by the owners of small holdings. The two islands of St. Kitts and Nevis are to a certain extent inter-dependent—the former drawing its principal supplies of meat, fruit, vegetables, &c., from Nevis, while Nevis finds her market for these products in the sister island.

Anguilla, the third island of the Presidency, has been more prosperous during the past 18 months or two years than she has been for many years past. This is due to two principal causes—one being the cultivation of cotton, for which the island has been found most suitable, and the other a more careful administration of the revenue laws. The former has added to the material wealth of the inhabitants and has thus indirectly benefited the revenue, while the latter has tended to put down smuggling, which had been rife for many years.

Throughout the Presidency there are works of utility, making for the comfort and convenience of the people, which call for attention. They involve large expenditure, but, having regard to the considerable surplus funds, amounting to £15,669, which the Presidency has at its credit, it is not unreasonable to hope that the more pressing of these works may be undertaken before long.

DOMINICA.

The Presidency of Dominica has made rapid strides during the past ten years, and her trade has doubled within that comparatively short period. The island maintained her prosperous state during the year, the revenue, exclusive of Imperial grants in aid of Botanical Departments, amounting to £38,998 11*s.* 11*d.*, and the expenditure to £30,620 0*s.* 4½*d.*, showing a surplus of £8,378 on the year's transactions. The accumulated surplus on the 31st March, 1908, amounted to £13,731.

The revenue was the highest on record, and exceeded the amounts estimated on every head of the estimates.

The imports of the island for the year ended the 31st December, 1907, were valued at £125,643, an increase of over £24,777 on the previous year.

The exports amounted to £124,294.

Of the exports in 1907 of the produce and manufacture of the island, cacao, as valued locally, represents 35 per cent. and the lime industry 65 per cent.

The export of citrate of lime shows a satisfactory increase.

The Presidency may be said to be in a highly satisfactory condition.

MONTSERRAT.

The finances of this Presidency still continue to show an upward tendency. When in 1905-6 Montserrat ceased to be dependent on the Imperial Treasury, as it had been for many years, the financial year closed with a surplus of £1,299. But of this sum £972 represented unexpended Imperial grants-in-aid, so that all the island could claim on the 31st March, 1906, as a true surplus was £327.

The surplus, after repaying £472 to the Imperial Government on the 31st March, 1907, was £1,682 on the transactions for 1906-7, while the surplus in respect of the financial year under review was £1,717.

The local revenue in 1907-8 was £10,233, irrespective of the Imperial grant in aid of the Botanic Department, the first time in the history of Montserrat that the revenue total ran into five figures. The expenditure, exclusive of the amount spent from Imperial funds on the Botanic Department, was £8,516, including £1,535 spent on Public Works Extraordinary, and £500 repaid to the Imperial Treasury, the latter amount being the unexpended balance of previous grants in aid of revenue.

The net increase of revenue in excess of that of the previous year was £1,501, which itself was £1,299 in excess of that reached in the year 1905-6. The total increase for the last two years, therefore, has been no less than £2,800. This is an eminently satisfactory sign of the times in a Presidency which in every year from 1895 to 1905 has shown a deficit on the year's transactions.

It is interesting to note that only on one occasion between the years 1864 and 1892 has the revenue of Montserrat exceeded £7,000. The average revenue for those 27 years was £5,579—that is, £4,654 less than in the financial year 1907-8—and the average yearly expenditure during the same period £5,447, as compared with £8,516 in 1907-8. It is evident, therefore, that at the present time this Presidency is experiencing greater prosperity than has been known during the last forty or fifty years. It is also satisfactory to be able to record that the expenditure is now proportionately lower than in former years. In the period of years 1864-92, referred to above, the expenditure amounted to nearly 98 per cent. of the revenue; in 1907-8 it dropped to only a little over 78 per cent.

The revenue returns again show material increases.

Practically every item is in excess of the previous year, while each head of revenue shows an increase—an unprecedented occurrence in the finances of this Presidency.

The year under review has been a most successful one for the cotton planters, suitable weather prevailing for the most part, and the usual ever-present pests being kept under control, so that little loss was occasioned by any one exercising due care of his crops. About 2,100 acres were under cotton cultivation, of which some 400 acres were in small lots of an acre or under planted by some 850 peasants. These latter have done well, as the local purchase price of seed cotton varied from 2½*d.* to 3½*d.* per lb., and all cotton offered readily found buyers. In addition to a number of bales shipped by themselves, over 280,000 lbs. of seed cotton were purchased locally from the small planters. This meant an immediate distribution of over £3,300 in cash among the peasant classes.

It is, however, to be much regretted that so many of the peasants are still inclined to ignore the desirability of cultivating ground provisions as well as cotton. The planting of the whole of their small plots of land in the latter crop is at any time a very precarious proceeding, while, if a bad season arrives or the price of cotton drops materially, the loss to such planters would be considerable, and in many cases would mean the loss of everything that they have to live on for the time being.

Lime cultivation still occupies a large area, and the results from the planting of cocoa are encouraging. The citrate of lime industry is one that may assume large proportions in the future.

The fruit-preserving industry, referred to in last year's report, is rapidly emerging from the experimental stage, and has been put on a commercial basis on the receipt of most encouraging reports from London and Canada as to the prospects of the products finding favour in both of these markets. Many samples have been exported both to Europe and the New World, and the opinions of the farm trade upon them have been very satisfactory regarding both the quality of the contents and the manner in which the packages were put up. During the year over 2,000 lbs. left the factory, an output that will be increased in the near future judging from the orders now being received. As a minor industry a considerable sum has been disbursed among the women and girls for drawn-thread work, purchased chiefly by private persons in Europe and tourists visiting the island.

This is not an industry that can ever be developed to any very great extent, owing to the competition offered by the workers in Ireland, Japan, and the Canary Islands, where similar work is produced at a cheaper price.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The revenue of the Virgin Islands, including a sum of £1,085 9*s.* received from the cotton industry, amounted to £3,421 0*s.* 1*d.*, and the expenditure, including a sum of £1,772 1*s.* 7*d.* expended on the cotton industry but excluding the Imperial grant in aid of the Agricultural Department, amounted to £3,822 11*s.* 1*d.*

There is an apparent deficit of £401 11*s.* on the year's transactions, reducing the surplus on the 31st March, 1908, to £50 2*s.* 7*d.* The excess of the expenditure on the cotton industry—£686 12*s.* 7*d.*—is covered by cotton and seed unsold, valued at £826 19*s.* 6*d.*; therefore if the cotton transactions are omitted, there will be a surplus of £285 1*s.* 7*d.* on the year's transactions, or £736 15*s.* 2*d.* on the 31st March, 1908.

There is a continued increase in the business and number of local merchants, who state that trade has not been so good for many years past. The purchasing power of the average Virgin islander is greater, and he can now supply his wants locally without visiting the Danish West Indies. The imports direct from England and the United States, or wholesale through the merchants of St. Thomas, are much larger than formerly:—

—	1897.	1906.	1907.
	£	£	£
Imports from United Kingdom ...	75	1,102	920
" United States of America	—	1,360	1,314
" Danish West Indies ...	3,159	3,879	4,725
" Hayti and St. Domingo...	—	41	31
" Leeward Islands... ...	50	28	266

Without any increase in the tariff, the revenue received from import duties has more than doubled during the last decade. The amount realised for the past year was £722, an increase of £66 on the year 1906, which was the highest amount on record. This satisfactory condition is largely due to the re-establishment of the cotton industry, which has proved a success. An oil engine has been erected to work the gins.

The cotton is shipped to the British Cotton Growing Association, but, with this exception, practically all the exports are to the Danish West Indies:—

—	1897.	1906.	1907.
	£	£	£
Exports to United Kingdom	—	335	509
" Barbados	—	5	65
" Danish West Indies ...	3,936	5,257	5,243

Cotton is a precarious crop, and it is encouraging to note that, although it has now become a staple industry, there seems little or no diminution in the amount of stock reared and in the agricultural produce grown in the Virgin Islands.

The population of the Virgin Islands is about 5,000, or only half the number that it contained in the days of its greatest prosperity. It is, however, now increasing as emigration is diminishing, and many old inhabitants are returning to their former homes. The vital statistics are satisfactory:—

Births	211
Deaths	106

The death rate of young children is extremely low for the West Indies, due to the abundant supply of fresh fish and milk within reach of nearly all. Phthisis is prevalent among the adult population, and is due largely to their ill-ventilated houses.

A grant of £23 was made to a new elementary school at East End, Tortola. It is well attended, and is likely to become one of the best schools in the island. There are now seven recognised schools in the Virgin Islands, and with the exception of the Sound, Virgin Gorda, a school has been placed within reach of nearly every child.

A quarantine station has been erected at Fort Burt for the Virgin Islands.

EDWARD B. JARVIS,

Acting Colonial Secretary,
Leeward Islands.

15th October, 1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906–1907
556	Basutoland	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	"
559	Swaziland	"
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	"
562	Falkland Islands	"
563	Gibraltar	"
564	Ashanti	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee	1907–1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1907
567	Seychelles	"
568	Bermuda	"
569	Weihaiwei	"
570	Hong Kong	"
571	Malta	1907–1908
572	British Honduras	1907
573	Gold Coast	"
574	Nyasaland Protectorate	1907–1908
575	Bahamas	"
576	Gambia	1907
577	St. Vincent	1907–1908
578	Turks and Caicos Islands	1907
579	St. Lucia...	"
580	Fiji	"
581	Mauritius	"
582	Straits Settlements	"
583	Southern Nigeria	"
584	Imperial Institute	1906–1907
585	Barbados	1907–1908
586	Somaliland Protectorate	"
587	Trinidad and Tobago	"
588	Sierra Leone	1907
589	British Guiana	1907–1908
590	Grenada	1907

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
49	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Department
50	British Colonies, &c.	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907–8.
54	Newfoundland	Governor's Visit to the Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Rietfontein Area.
56	Turks Islands	Salt Industry.

Gt. Brit. Colonial office.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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349
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No. 629.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1908-9.

(For Report for 1907-8, *see* No. 591.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

December, 1909.

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JUN 8 1911

No. 629.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1907-8, *see* No. 591.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Antigua,
12th November, 1909.

MY LORD,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report on the Blue Book of the Leeward Islands for the year 1908-9, which has been prepared by Mr. Edward B. Jarvis, the Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

DOUGLAS YOUNG,
Acting Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.
&c., &c., &c.

(14974—2.) Wt. 26122—322. 1125 1/10. D & S.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1908-9.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year 1908-09 (exclusive of grants in aid of the Agricultural Department from the Imperial Government amounting to £3,189 15*s.* 11*d.*) was £154,333 8*s.* 5½*d.*, showing a net increase of £1,724 13*s.* 7*d.* over that for the previous financial year.

The following table shows the amount of revenue collected in each Presidency, exclusive of Imperial Grants in aid of the Agricultural Department during the last five years, as also the increase or decrease in 1908-9 as compared with 1907-8:—

Presidency.	1904–5.	1905–6.	1906–7.	1907–8.	1908–9.
	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	44,295	48,798	44,175	50,620	51,502
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	43,905	47,145	49,613	49,336	47,133
Dominica	30,982	31,200	33,209	38,999	40,500
Montserrat... ...	7,237	7,433	8,732	10,232	10,950
Virgin Islands ...	2,503	2,478	2,425	3,421	4,248
Total ...	128,922	137,054	138,154	152,608	154,333

Presidency.	Increase. 1908-9 over 1907-8.	Decrease. 1908-9 under 1907-8.
	£	£
Antigua	882	—
St. Kitts-Nevis	—	2,203
Dominica	1,501	—
Montserrat	718	—
Virgin Islands	827	—
Total	3,928	2,203

The Imperial Grants in aid of the Agricultural Department were as follows:—

	£
Antigua	671
St. Kitts-Nevis	780
Dominica	636
Montserrat	552
Virgin Islands	550
Total	£3,189

Net increase of revenue in 1908-9, as compared with 1907-8, £1,725.

The following is a return showing the number of licences issued in the Leeward Islands in 1908 for the sale of intoxicating liquors and the revenue derived therefrom:—

Presidency.	No. of licences issued for sale of intoxicating liquors.	Revenue derived therefrom. £	s.	d.
Antigua ...	17	739	0	0
St. Kitts-Nevis	53	1,776	0	0
Dominica ...	106	1,125	0	0
Montserrat ...	31	146	5	0
Virgin Islands	23	44	2	4
	230	£3,830	7	4

The expenditure for the year 1908-9, exclusive of Imperial Grants in aid of the Agricultural Department, was £146,216, as against £135,548 for the year 1907-8, showing an increase of £10,668.

The following table shows the expenditure of each Presidency for each of the last five years, as also the increase or decrease in 1908-9 as compared with 1907-8:—

Presidency.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.	1908-9.	Increase 1908–9 over 1907–8.	Decrease 1908–9 under 1907–8.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	48.670	54,383	45,207	46,968	49,964	2,996	—
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	43,063	44,026	46,067	46,121	45,722	—	399
Dominica ...	31,033	34,187	30,114	30,620	36,541	5,921	—
Montserrat ...	8,361	7,107	6,578	[°]8,016	9,296	1,280	—
Virgin Islands ...	2,431	2,511	2,032	3,823	4,693	870	—
Total ...	133,558	142,214	129,998	135,548	146,216	11,067	399

[°] £500 repaid by the Government of Montserrat to Imperial Government on account of unexpended balance of Imperial Grant in aid of Revenue, which was erroneously charged to 1907–8, has been transferred to Expenditure for 1908–9.

The expenditure on the Agricultural Department was as follows:—

	£
Antigua ...	657
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	721
Dominica ...	636
Montserrat ...	541
Virgin Islands ...	499
Total ...	£3,054

There was a surplus of assets over liabilities on the 31st of March, 1909, in Antigua of £8,732, in St. Kitts-Nevis of £17,080, in Dominica of £17,701, in Montserrat of £6,852, and in the Virgin Islands the liabilities exceeded the assets by £395, making a net surplus for the whole Colony of £49,970.

In Antigua the surplus of assets as shown by returns is £8,732, but out of that £2,000 of the unexpended balance of the grant-in-aid for the year 1906-7 to Antigua is repayable to the Imperial Treasury. The net surplus to Antigua may therefore be correctly stated as £6,732.

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounts to £273,650.

The debt of the Colony has been reduced by the following amount during the year:—

Antigua, St. John's Savings Bank Loan... ...	£200
Total	£200

The following table shows the amount of the loans raised and the sums standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds at 31st March, 1909:—

Presidency.	Total amount of loans raised.	Amount to credit of Sinking Fund.
Antigua	£135,140	... £37,584
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	76,000	... 14,741
Dominica	65,000	... 15,224
Montserrat	11,100	... 2,210
	287,240	69,759
Less amount repaid...	13,590	—
Total	£273,680	£69,759

MUNICIPALITIES.

By Ordinance No. 1 of 1907, which came into operation on the 1st of May, 1907, the Government of the City of Saint John, Antigua, which had been until then administered by the Saint John's City Board, under Ordinance No. 5 of 1898, was vested in five Commissioners, two of whom must be persons not holding any office or emolument under the Crown.

Town Boards also exist in Basseterre, St. Kitts, and Roseau, Dominica.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total value of imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1908, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £546,750, as against £499,990 in 1907, being an increase of £46,760.

The following table shows the total value of imports for the last five years, distinguishing the countries from which the imports came, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1908, as compared with the previous year:—

Country whence imported.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	Increase 1908 over 1907.	Decrease 1908 under 1907.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom...	175,546	177,119	178,587	231,018	225,773	—	5,245
British Colonies ...	56,541	62,019	68,227	74,844	99,976	25,132	—
United States of America.	144,026	151,968	147,020	177,282	201,350	24,068	—
Other Foreign Countries.	12,109	12,375	13,417	16,846	19,651	2,805	—
Total ...	388,222	403,481	407,251	499,990	546,750	52,005	5,245

Net increase in value of imports in 1908, as compared with 1907, £46,760.

The internal trade between the Presidencies shows a total value of goods exchanged or imported of £20,843, as against £17,434 for the year 1907, being an increase of £3,409.

The figures for the quinquennial period 1904 to 1908 are as follows:—

Year.	Amount.
1904	£13,851
1905	17,325
1906	16,501
1907	17,434
1908	20,843

The total value of exports for the year 1908, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, was £517,467, as against £516,861 in 1907, being an increase of £606.

The following table gives the total value of exports during each of the last five years, distinguishing the countries to which the various articles were exported, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1908 as compared with 1907:—

Countries to which exported.	1904.	1905.	1906	1907.	1908.	Increase 1908 over 1907.	Decrease 1908 under 1907.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom...	79,256	122,970	161,614	214,857	159,161	—	55,696
British Colonies ...	175,458	226,593	178,445	236,670	261,529	24,859	—
United States of America.	61,851	40,239	43,143	45,700	72,245	26,545	—
Other Foreign Countries.	18,725	58,192	16,006	19,634	24,532	4,898	—
Total ...	335,290	447,994	399,208	516,861	517,467	56,302	55,696

The following table shows the export of sugar from each Presidency during the last ten years: —

Presidency.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons,	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua ..	10,041	7,603	9,091	12,596	10,471	11,940	7,776	9,996	13,972	12,501
St. Kitts-Nevis	11,943	7,451	12,133	16,597	13,490	12,167	12,312	15,142	14,132	10,986
Dominica ..	278	107	152	148	214	129	181	82	107	24
Montserrat ..	553	223	579	996	845	429	134	351	207	60
Virgin Islands	—	—	35	2	—	2	11	—	1	1
Total ..	22,815	15,384	21,990	30,339	25,020	24,667	20,414	25,571	28,419	23,572

The following is a return of cotton exported from the Presidencies of Antigua (including Barbuda), St. Kitts-Nevis (including Anguilla), Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands, during the years 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, and to 31st March, 1909.

Presidency.	1904.		1905.		1906.	
	Lbs.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.
		£		£		£
Antigua	27,847	1,508	54,720	3,192	99,948	6,455
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	86,748	6,506	163,778	12.283	298,519	22,389
Montserrat	27,606	2,070	82,312	6,173	86,698	6,502
Virgin Islands ...	1,300	30	4,100	135	6,975	205
Total ...	143,501	10,114	304,910	21,783	492,140	35,551

Presidency.	1907.		1908.		To 31st March, 1909.	
	Lbs.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.
		£		£		£
Antigua	191,220	17,479	178,100	12,983	18 400	997
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	464,445	39,067	459,309	33,002	199,998	10,833
Montserrat ...	219,280	17,620	391,068	28,371	82,230	4,454
Virgin Islands ...	10,333	544	32,520	1,992	33,674	1,824
Total ...	884,978	74,710	1,060,996	76,348	334,302	18,108

Mines and Manufactures.

There is in Dominica one sulphur mine, at Souffriere, and phosphates are found in the islands of Redonda and Barbuda.

There is an interesting old mine in Virgin Gorda (one of the Virgin Islands group), which consists of several "stringers" of chalcopyrite carrying copper and possibly gold. Molybdenum exists and grey copper ore has been mined.

Sugar is the principal manufacture of the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts, and in the latter Presidency the manufacture of rum is of some importance.

Lime-juice is manufactured in Dominica and Montserrat, and in both these islands a strong attempt is being made to improve still further the prospects of the lime industry by the manufacture of citrate of lime.

There are no organized fisheries.

AGRICULTURE INDUSTRIES AND BOTANIC STATIONS.

Activity in agricultural matters has continued to be maintained to varying extents throughout the Colony during the year 1908-9.

Sugar, in all probability, will always continue to be the industry on which the prosperity of Antigua and St. Kitts will depend.

In Antigua the crop amounted to 12,501 tons of sugar exported, made up of 5,590 tons of grey crystals and 6,911 tons of muscovado.

This amount is 1,471 tons below the amount exported for the previous crop; the shortage appears to be attributable to the heavy rains of September, 1906, which interfered with the proper preparation of the land for planting the crop and favoured the development of root disease.

The two central sugar factories had successful campaigns; at Gunthorpes 4,695½ tons of grey crystal sugar were made; 9·17 tons of cane were required to make 1 ton of sugar. No large additions were made to the works during this season, though some minor improvements were effected. This factory bought 3,243 tons of peasant cane.

At Bendals some 900 tons of grey crystal sugars were made, together with about 80 tons of other kinds of sugar. 3,523 tons of peasant canes were purchased during the season.

Further improvements were effected during the year in muscovado sugar works in Antigua, several additional estates having substituted green megass furnaces and steam pans for boiling, for the old fire-heated tayches.

In all there are seven estates equipped with this system at present in Antigua.

A feature of the season was the high price realised by the sale of muscovado molasses in Antigua, which is at the present time in considerable demand as a direct consumption product.

The prices paid for peasants' canes at the factories varied from 9*s*. 9*d*. *to* 11*s*. 4*d*. per ton.

In St. Kitts-Nevis the crop amounted to 10,884 tons muscovado and 102 tons crystals. A considerable recrudescence of interest in the cane industry is being manifested in Nevis, and in consequence of this a considerably increased area has been planted under the crop for the coming season.

In both Antigua and St. Kitts great interest continues to be manifested in the introduction of new and improved varieties of cane.

In Nevis a number of estates continue to buy canes from peasants at prices fixed each week by the Government and based on a sliding scale according to the current price of sugar.

On the whole the past season may be said to have been unpropitious for cotton growing in all the islands, mainly on account of bad weather conditions.

In Antigua a considerable decrease in the area planted, as compared with the previous year, was witnessed; dry weather in the earlier part of the year and very heavy rains in December, combined with the re-appearance of the recently discovered pest, "Flower Bud Maggot" (*Contarinia gossypii*), which, attacking the young unopened buds, causes them to drop, have occasioned very poor yields; it is hoped that, with the advent of less unpropitious seasons, the prospects of the industry may revive.

At St. Kitts, though some places have suffered from bad weather conditions, the yields have, on the whole, been satisfactory. At Nevis the returns have been poor, but have somewhat exceeded expectations during the early part of the crop. In Anguilla the returns have been poor.

In Montserrat, though good yields have been experienced in some localities, the general return has been distinctly below the average. This is largely to be attributed to the effects of the gale which passed over the island in September, 1908, whereby a considerable amount of damage was inflicted on the crop.

In the Virgin Islands the industry has continued to expand on the lines on which it has been established. The cotton is grown by the peasantry and purchased by the Government.

On this system the development of the industry is having a profound effect in modifying and improving the conditions of the peasantry.

Prices realised for lint have been distinctly below the ordinary market level of earlier years, and sales have been difficult to effect.

On the whole it cannot be denied the past season has been unfavourable in practically every aspect; nevertheless the advent of occasional bad seasons must be expected in every agricultural industry; while it is true that the coincidence of bad seasons with low prices is a particularly adverse combination, yet such a season as the past should have value, for while the immediate effect will, in all probability, be seen in a reduction of the area under the crop, it is to be hoped and expected that it will ultimately result in the imparting of additional stability to the industry.

The past year marks a period of further considerable advance in the lime industry in Dominica. The crop for 1908 reached about 310,000 barrels, an increase of 38,000 barrels over the crop of the previous year and 70,000 barrels over that of 1906.

Prices for concentrated juice declined from the very high figure at which they stood during the preceding year, viz., £22 per hogshead, to about £15 per hogshead.

The trade in green limes has continued to occupy an important position, and considerable shipments were again made this year from Dominica to New York.

During the year further efforts have been made to develop a trade in green limes with England and Canada by representation at exhibitions, and other means.

The export of citrate of lime for the year stands at 2,520 cwts. as against 2,385 cwts. in 1907.

In Montserrat the industry continues to develop steadily.

In other islands the possibilities of the lime industry are beginning to attract considerable attention. At Antigua interest has been shown in the crop for some years past and each year sees appreciable increases in the area planted under it. During 1908 the value of exports of lime products from Antigua reached £951. In Nevis interest is being shown in the crop, and the planting of considerable areas is in prospect; small areas have also been planted in St. Kitts and there appears to be fair prospects for the establishment of a small industry in the Virgin Islands.

The amount of cacao exported from Dominica was 9,820 cwts.; this shows a falling off of some 1,800 cwts. on the crop of the previous year.

Continued interest is manifested in the possibility of establishing small areas in cacao in suitably sheltered places in the mountain lands of St. Kitts and Nevis. At the present time there are about 40 acres under the crop in St. Kitts and 60 acres in Nevis with the prospect of small increases in area in the immediate future.

At the present time there is a considerable revival of interest in the coconut crop in some of the islands, notably Antigua and Nevis, in both of which islands considerable areas have been established under the crop, with prospects of further extension in the near future.

Onions continue to form a small, but appreciable, item of export from practically all of the Presidencies, the produce being shipped to New York and also to the southern islands of the West Indies.

Botanic stations continue to be maintained in every Presidency under the direction of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, which, in addition to being the means of distributing plants, seeds, and agricultural information to planters and others, serve as a centre for the performance of experiments on the growth and treatment of crops.

The large series of sugar-cane experiments have continued to be carried on in Antigua and St. Kitts under the direction of the Department of Agriculture on similar basis as heretofore, and extensive experiments have been carried on in relation to the cotton, cacao, lime, and other crops. Reports of these experiments are published periodically and are included in the "Agricultural News" and "West Indian Bulletin," the organs of the Department.

During the past year a series of reading courses and examinations in the theory and practice of agriculture has been instituted by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. These are intended primarily for overseers and junior members of the planting profession, the object being to endeavour to establish a professional standard of proficiency. The examinations are as follows: preliminary, intermediate, and final; the Board of Examiners consists of planters of recognized standing and members of the staff of the Department of Agriculture. A small entrance fee is charged and candidates are supplied with a quantity of literature free of charge. The scheme has attracted a good deal of attention and support in the Leeward Islands.

I am indebted to Mr. H. A. Tempany, B.Sc., Acting Superintendent of Agriculture, for the remarks under this heading.

LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

The value of land in the Colony varies in accordance with its suitability for sugar-cane or other products. In Dominica Crown lands can be purchased at 10*s*. an acre. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane land varies from £4 to £8 an acre.

SHIPPING.

Comparing the figures with those for the year 1907, there is a decrease of 515,495 tons in steam vessels and an increase of 2,534 tons in sailing vessels entered and cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1908.

The following table shows the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in each Presidency during each of the last five years, including both steam and sailing vessels, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1908 as compared with 1907:—

Presidency.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	Increase 1908 over 1907	Decrease 1908 under 1907.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	514,846	625,221	560,297	539,135	567,678	722,862	155,184	—
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	558,168	590,349	596,993	624,603	620,435	638,961	18,526	—
Dominica	510,452	554,776	584,249	481,669	508,631	746,640	238,009	—
Montserrat ..	295,117	386,356	417,133	309,247	309,778	384,472	74,694	—
Virgin Islands ..	13,197	13,011	13,800	12,599	13,796	14,422	626	—
Total	1,891,780	2,169,713	2,172,472	1,967,253	2,020,318	2,507,357	487,039	—

III.—LEGISLATION.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

The General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands was in Session from the 9th to the 11th of March, 1908. Twelve Acts were passed, the most important of which are:—"The Payment of Stamp Duties (Probates) Act, 1908" and "The Prisoners' Sentences Remission Act, 1908." The former Act provides, amongst other things, for inquiry by the Government into the value of an estate of a deceased person and for the collection of the Stamp Duty payable thereon. The Act also gives the Treasurer power to recover from dishonest executors or administrators of estates of persons who have died since 1904, the Stamp Duty to which those estates were liable, and which should have been collected at the time of the grant of probate or letters of administration.

The latter Act is similar to the section of the English Act (61 & 62 Vict. c. 41, section 8) dealing with remission of sentences, and enables a prisoner to earn by special industry and good conduct a remission of a portion of his imprisonment.

ANTIGUA.

Fourteen Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of Antigua, the most important of these being "The Labourers' Payment Ordinance, 1908."

The Ordinance provides for the payment of labourers at regular intervals in the current coin of the realm and without deduction for goods other than those specified in the Ordinance (namely capes and cloaks and agricultural implements).

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

The Legislative Council of Saint Christopher and Nevis passed ten Ordinances during the year, none of which calls for special remark.

DOMINICA.

Three Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of Dominica during 1908, but none of them calls for special remarks.

MONTSERRAT.

The Legislative Council of Montserrat passed only two Ordinances during the year. These were the usual Appropriation and Supplementary Appropriation Ordinances.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Five Ordinances were made by the Governor for the Virgin Islands during the year 1908, the most important being "The Liquor Licences Ordinance, 1900, Amendment Ordinance, 1908," and "The Treasury Ordinance, 1892, Amendment Ordinance, 1908."

IV.—EDUCATION.

The number of children on the rolls of the Government and State-aided primary schools for the year 1908-9 was 26,072, as against 26,314 for the year 1907-8. The average attendance was 12,181, as against 12,222 for the previous year.

In 1890, the year of the establishment of compulsory education, there were only 12,000 on the roll, with an average attendance of 7,000.

The following table shows the number on the roll, the average attendance, school fees, Government grant, and voluntary contributions during the last five years:—

—	1904–5.	1905–6.	1906–7.	1907–8.	1908–9.
Number on roll	26,854	26,326	26,627	26,314	26,072
Average attendance	12,591	11,801	12,143	12,222	12,181
	£	£	£	£	£
School fees	44	33	43	31	53
Government grant	6,245	6,362	5,993	6,951	6,861
Voluntary contributions ...	417	400	389	539	648

The following is a list of the secondary education schools of the Colony with their respective grants from local funds:—

	£	s.	d.
Antigua Grammar School	256	10	0*
St. Kitts Grammar School	221	12	10
Miss Wattley's School	75	0	0
Miss Bridgewater's School, Nevis ...	50	0	0
Antigua Girls' High School	125	0	0†
Dominica Grammar School	405	0	0
Spring Gardens Female Training College, Antigua (from Federal funds)	150	0	0

The following amounts are paid also from Imperial funds:—

Antigua Grammar School—	£	s.	d.
Agricultural and Science Master ...	165	0	0
Allowance for quarters	15	0	0
Contingencies	15	0	0
Scholarships	70	0	0
St. Kitts Grammar School—			
Scholarships	93	0	0

There is one industrial school in the Colony, viz., the St. John's Training School in Antigua, to which boys are sent from all the Presidencies.

The number of boys at the beginning of the year was 46, 18 were admitted during the year, 8 were released on licence and 4 were discharged.

The Presidencies contribute at the rate of £10 per annum for each boy sent to the school.

The receipts from all sources amounted to £267, and the expenditure to £681.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Lessons and lectures in the secondary grade of agricultural instruction are given at the Antigua Grammar School by the

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* Includes £50 for scholarships.
† Includes £25 for scholarships.

Agricultural and Science Master, who is provided by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. This Department also gives seven Agricultural Scholarships, which are tenable at that school, of the annual value of £10 each.

The lessons and lectures this year have comprised:—(1) lessons in chemistry, agriculture, animal physiology, botany, and practical gardening at the Antigua Grammar School; (2) lessons in plant physiology and general science at the Girls' High School; lectures at the Female Training College on tropical hygiene. Every boy at the Grammar School takes at least one of the science subjects, so that about 70 boys attend the classes. The numbers in the classes from the Girls' High School are 12 and 6, respectively. From the Female Training College 12 students attend the lectures.

During the year a series of lectures and demonstrations has been undertaken in connection with the recently inaugurated examinations in practical agriculture of the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

The Dominica Agricultural School is maintained by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. The full complement of boys is 20.

The pupils, who are in most cases the sons of peasant proprietors, are drawn from the elementary schools in the island, and must be between the ages of 14 and 16. Upon passing an entrance examination, the boys are admitted upon three months' probation, and if during that period they show a natural aptitude for agriculture, they are kept in residence at the school for a period of three to five years.

In addition to receiving a general elementary education, they receive a thorough practical training in agriculture and its allied sciences.

Three-and-a-half hours each day are devoted to practical work in the field. The school grounds—some 40 odd acres in extent, of which 11 acres are cultivated by the boys—provide ample accommodation for the growing of the staple products of the island, in addition to the raising of ground provisions for consumption at the school. Such operations as budding, grafting, pruning, and spraying receive special attention. This field work is conducted, as far as possible, on approved estate lines.

Four hours each day are devoted to lessons in the schoolroom, where the boys are taught the principles which govern the operations performed by them in the field.

A small stud farm is maintained to give practical instruction in the management and rearing of improved breeds of animals. Since the opening of the school in December, 1900, 37 boys have completed their training and are now occupying positions as overseers, &c., on estates, or are engaged in working on their parents' properties.

It is gratifying to be able to state that the demand for good working boys from the school continues, and up to the present has exceeded the supply.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

In the year 1908, 3,332 patients were admitted into the hospitals of the Colony. There were 403 deaths.

There is a central lunatic asylum for the Colony in Antigua. On the 1st of January, 1908, there were 102 inmates, 49 were admitted during the year, 13 were cured, and 25 died.

There are two leper asylums in the Colony: one at Rat Island, in Antigua; and the other at Fort Charles, in St. Kitts.

In Antigua there were 38 lepers in the asylum at the beginning of the year; three were admitted during the year and seven died.

In St. Kitts there were 60 lepers at the bginning of the year; seven were admitted during the year and six died.

There is no record, in Antigua at any rate, of any attendant of the asylums having contracted leprosy.

The number of inmates in the Antigua Poor-house on the 1st of January, 1908, was 86 (26 males and 60 females); 29 inmates were admitted during the year and 16 discharged.

The number of persons receiving outdoor relief in Antigua was 561, the total amount distributed being £436 9*s*. 7*d*.

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank and the amounts to their credit on the 31st March, 1909, are given in the table below:—

Antigua ...	No. 1,939 ...	£44,507
St. Kitts ...	„ 585 ...	17,610
Nevis	„ 61 ...	2,582
Dominica ...	„ 618 ...	12,874
Montserrat ...	„ 171 ...	4,174
Virgin Islands ...	„ 99 ...	408
Total ...	No. 3,473 ...	£82,155

The following table shows the number of depositors and the amounts deposited and withdrawn in the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Deposited.	Withdrawn.
		£	£
1904	2,930	22,195	21,390
1905	3,050	24,702	23,616
1906	3,045	27,017	25,183
1907	3,533	36,666	27,777
1908	3,473	33,550	32,492

The total amount of invested funds is £82,747.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The total number of persons committed to prison in the several gaols of the Colony during the year 1908 was 1,187 (604 males, 556 females, and 27 juveniles).

The total number of prisoners received during the year at the Central Prison, Antigua, was 139 males and 99 females.

Thirty-one males and five females were received from the other Presidencies as follows:—

Presidency.	Males.	Females.	Total.
St. Kitts-Nevis	16	4	20
Dominica	13	1	14
Montserrat	2	—	2
Virgin Islands	—	—	—
Total	31	5	36

The prisoners were employed in the usual duties of the prison, such as cooking for the prisoners, baking bread for the hospital, poor-house, lunatic and leper asylums, St. John's Training School, and the prison; making and mending clothing and bedding for the prison and St. John's Training School; also in quarrying, stone-breaking, smithy work, masonry, and carpentry.

The cost of each prisoner was at the rate of £28 12*s*. 9*d*. per annum.

One prisoner died during the year.

The following table gives the total number of offences reported to the police during each of the last five years, together with convictions and acquittals in each year:—

Year.	Offences reported.	Convicted.	Acquitted, died awaiting trial, or *nolle prosequi* entered.
1904	13,862	7,660	4,318
1905	14,606	8,525	5,372
1906	14,227	6,699	6,726
1907	14,920	6,442	7,460
1908	14,516	6,228	7,002

Of the offences reported, 4,326 were offences against the person, 659 for prædial larceny, 1,468 for offences against property (other than prædial larceny), and the remaining cases comprise all other offences.

Summary convictions were recorded against 6,178 persons in the Magistrates' Court, the number of convictions in the Superior Courts amounting to 50.

6,986 persons were acquitted in the Magistrates' Courts and 11 in the Superior Courts, and a *nolle prosequi* was entered in five cases.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The last census was taken in 1901, when the total population was returned at 127,434.

There were 4,864 births and 3,501 deaths during the year. Of the births, 1,858 were legitimate, and 3,006, or 61 per cent., illegitimate.

The general health during the year was very satisfactory. There were no epidemics of a serious nature.

RAINFALL—ANTIGUA.

Average rainfall, 1908, January to December, 43·79 inches.

Average rainfall, 35 years, 1874-1908, 45·41 inches.

Highest rainfall recorded in any year, 73·59 inches, in 1889.

Lowest rainfall recorded in any year, 28·78 inches, in 1875.

Highest maximum temperature, 1908, 90°.

Lowest minimum temperature, 1908, 64°.

Five earthquakes were recorded in 1908—September 30th, October 9th, November 2nd (two), and December 30th.

There are no records available for the other Presidencies.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The net profit on the working of the Post Office for the year was £1,162, as compared with £2,172 for the previous year.

The following table gives the statistics of postal matter sent to and from the Colony during the last five years:—

Year.	Letters and cards received and sent.	Books and papers received and sent.	Parcels received and sent.
1904	662,516	200,872	10,112
1905	678,099	224,427	10,247
1906	641,963	218,808	10,127
1907	606,935	216,700	11,043
1908	671,821	219,776	11,680

Comparing the figures for 1908 with those for 1907 we find an increase of 64,886 letters and cards received and sent, 3,076 books and papers received and sent, and of 637 parcels received and sent.

The total value of money orders issued on the Colony was £22,703, as against £23,759 in 1907, and the value of orders paid for the Colony £22,728, as against £20,860.

The subsidies paid to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company amount to £1,400 per annum, of which Antigua pays £500, St. Kitts-Nevis £500, and Dominica £400.

There is no telegraphic communication with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands.

There are telephone services in the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica.

In Antigua there are 173 instruments in use and 300 miles of wire; in St. Kitts 97 instruments and 256 miles of wire; in Dominica 126 instruments and 410 miles of wire.

The receipts and expenditure for the year under review are as follows:—

Presidency.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
Antigua	£847	£744
St. Kitts	457	626
Dominica	474	811

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

There is little to arrest one's attention in reviewing the affairs of the Colony as a whole during the financial year 1908-09.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies, exclusive of grants in aid of the Agricultural Department amounting to £3,189 15*s.* 11*d.*, was £154,333 8*s.* 5½*d.* This is the largest revenue which has ever been collected in the history of the Colony and exceeded that of the previous year by £1,724 13*s.* 7*d.* The surplus of assets for the five Presidencies over their liabilities, which on the 31st March, 1908, stood at £38,485, was increased on the 31st March, 1909, to £49,970.

The public debt of the Colony amounts to £273,650.

There was a decrease in the value of imports from the United Kingdom of £5,245 and of exports to the United Kingdom of £55,696. The internal trade between the Presidencies showed an increase of £3,409. 23,572 tons of sugar were exported, as compared with 28,419 tons during the previous year.

The estimated value of cotton exported amounted to £76,348, as against £74,710 during the year 1907.

The health of the Colony during the year was remarkably good and no quarantinable disease of any kind made its appearance.

ANTIGUA.

The revenue of this Presidency for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1909, amounted to £51,502, as against an estimate of £50,080. It exceeded the revenue of the former year by £882, and was in excess of the average of the five preceding years by no less a sum than £6,267.

The expenditure was £49,964, against the original estimate of £48,330, and, but for the repayment to the Imperial Treasury of a sum of £1,542 on account of surplus grants received in previous years, the excess on the estimate would have only amounted to £92.

There was a surplus of assets over liabilities on the 31st March, 1909, of £8,732, out of which a sum of £2,000 is repayable to the Imperial Treasury, being an unexpended balance of the Imperial grant-in-aid for the year 1906-7.

12,501 tons of sugar were exported during the year, as against 13,972 for the year 1908.

The cotton crop was valued at £12,983, as against £17,479 during the former year. The year was a most unfortunate one for growers, not only on account of adverse weather conditions but mainly owing to the attacks of the "Flower Bud Maggot" (*Contarinia gossypii*). The reappearance of this maggot has caused a very marked set back in the cultivation of cotton in this island. It is a matter for much regret that this industry, which gave such bright promise a few years ago and which was progressing so favourably, should be checked, even temporarily, by this pest. The Imperial Department of Agriculture is giving special attention to the eradication of this pest and it is to be sincerely hoped that their efforts will prove successful.

The use of labour-saving appliances in connection with agriculture, and to which reference was made last year, is being gradually extended.

Many of the public buildings were painted and repaired.

The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury made a handsome gift to the Presidency in the shape of State portraits of His Majesty King Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra, and these were placed in the Council Chamber.

The roads throughout the island have been much improved, and several objectionable drains were replaced with culverts.

The water supply in the country districts of the island continues to be improved. There are, up to the present, 29 tanks supplying 13 villages with wholesome drinking water from Wallings Reservoir. There are also six catch-water tanks and two reservoirs situated in eight villages, each in charge of a caretaker, who distributes the water at proper times to the villagers. This improvement in the water supply has without doubt had a beneficial effect generally on the health of the people.

The health of the island may be regarded as excellent. No quarantinable disease of any kind was recorded. The marked decrease in malaria throughout the island may be attributed to the greater knowledge among the labouring classes of the important part played by the mosquito, the increased interest which is being shown in sanitation and hygiene generally, and the use of quinine in the place of bush remedies. The fact is gradually being appreciated that preventive measures are preferable to remedial ones. Every pond and stream throughout the island has been stocked with mosquito-devouring fish, viz., Barbados "Millions" (*Girardinus pœciloides*). Quinine, in packets containing three doses of three grains each, has been for several years obtainable for the sum of one penny a packet at all police stations throughout the island, and in order to still further encourage the people in the use of this drug the free distribution of quinine is shortly to be commenced.

A bylaw for the City of Saint John was passed early in the year 1908 making it compulsory, under a penalty of £20, to screen with mosquito-wire-gauze all tanks, barrels, and other receptacles for storing water, and providing that all fountains, pools or ponds, or artificial excavations, made for any purpose whatever in public or private property, which may contain water, shall be kept stocked with mosquito-destroying fish or shall be kept covered with a film of petroleum oil. The introduction of this useful measure has done much to rid the city of these dangerous pests.

BARBUDA.

The revenue of Barbuda for the period under review was £2,261 1*s.* 10*d.*, and the expenditure £2,291 12*s.*, showing a deficit on the transaction of the year of £30 10*s.* 2*d.*

The cotton crop of Barbuda, in common with that of Antigua, suffered very considerably from adverse weather conditions, and the crop was much damaged by exceptionally heavy rains just as picking operations were being commenced. Had this not occurred, a large surplus revenue might have reasonably been expected. It is satisfactory to note that Barbuda does not suffer from insect pests to the same extent as Antigua.

Barbuda now possesses a well-equipped ginnery, on the erection of which the sum of £600 was expended.

The breeding of horses, cattle, and mules by the Government is being continued on satisfactory lines, and in a few years to come Barbuda should be in a position to supply this Presidency, at least, with a large proportion of the animals it requires.

The following is the list of Government stock at present in Barbuda:—

Brood mares	100
Colts	29
Fillies	35
Geldings	19
Pasture stallions	6
Mules	26
Jack	1

Cows	70
Cow calves	46
Bull calves	51
Steers and oxen	10
Pasture bulls	5
Total	398

These animals represent an estimated value of £3,000.

The villagers also possess a considerable number of horses, donkeys, cattle, sheep, and goats on which licences are paid.

Large numbers of natives are emigrating to Panama and America, but this has not as yet affected the labour supply.

Considerable attention is being given to improving the sanitation of the village and its surroundings.

Excellent tarpon and other sea fishing may be had around the coast; deer abound, and splendid shooting may be obtained at a minimum cost. The seasons are from 1st January to 31st March, and 1st July to 30th September. Wild pig, guinea fowl, pigeon, and duck are also plentiful, and afford excellent sport.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The financial position of St. Kitts-Nevis continues sound, and on 31st March, 1909, was more favourable than was anticipated when the Estimates for 1908-9 were framed, revenue collections having exceeded the estimate by £1,314 11*s.* 9*d.* Customs, pier dues, excise, and liquor licences show, however, a decrease of £1,887, as compared with the revenue under these heads for the previous year.

Expenditure during 1908-9 was kept well within the estimate of that year.

The surplus of assets over liabilities on 31st March, 1908, proved to be £15,669, or £3,092 more than at the same date in 1907. The transactions of the year just drawn to a close added £1,381, so that on the 31st March, 1909, the total reached £17,080. Of this sum, £9,293 is invested by the Crown Agents in England, £2,600 is with them at interest, £2,000 is on deposit at interest in the Colonial Bank, St. Kitts, and £1,628 outstanding, at interest, on advances made for cotton cultivation.

The public debt of the Presidency amounts to £67,250.

The total value of imports during 1908 exceeded that of 1907 by £5,839.

Imports from the United Kingdom show a falling off of £8,684, while importations from British Colonies and foreign countries reveal an increase of £3,419 and £10,711, respectively.

The decrease in imports from the United Kingdom is particularly marked in cotton goods and haberdashery, these articles of American manufacture, of a cheaper and better class, superseding, to a great extent, the British goods formerly imported by merchants here. The total value of exports during 1908 was less by £1,133 than that of 1907—the export of produce and manufactures to the United Kingdom being £30,000 less, and to British Colonies (Canada, &c.) being £11,526 more than in 1907.

The value of exports to foreign countries during 1908 was £16,679, as compared with £4,618 in 1907, while the export trade with the other Presidencies of the Colony showed an increase of £1,792.

There was a further decline in the export of sugar. This fact cannot be regarded without some anxiety, for there can be no question that although the Presidency is not so entirely dependent on its production of sugar as it was some years ago, it remains the great staple, and the prosperity of St. Kitts and Nevis must rise or fall in accordance with the amount of sugar they produce. These remarks apply with equal force to the Presidency of Antigua.

The progress made in the cocoa industry, begun some five years ago at Molyneux, in St. Kitts, and at Maddens, in Nevis, is most encouraging, the young trees being in a most healthy condition, and many of the older ones bearing freely. The fact has now been clearly demonstrated that cocoa will grow and bear well on these lands, if only protected by proper windbreaks and sufficient shade given to the plants in the early stages of growth.

Some interest is being shown in the cultivation of limes, and at the present time two estates are planting them in fairly large areas.

The Government estate of forest in Anguilla of some 400 acres, of which about 150 is suitable for cotton, was surveyed and sold to Mr. Carter Rey, whose efforts to revive a former industry, by the cultivation of the cotton plant in Anguilla, have met with success, and have opened a new era of prosperity for that island, thereby avoiding the issue from St. Kitts of the usual pauper doles to the people of Anguilla.

An Ordinance to make provision for the destruction of mosquitoes, by draining and filling up pools of stagnant water, or stocking them with mosquito-destroying fish, covering tanks with protecting netting, or treating them with oil, was passed in the Local Legislature during 1908. The drainage of the pond swamp to the east of the town is progressing, £250 having been spent thereon, but much work has yet, however, to be done under this Ordinance in the town and country districts.

During the past year the work of restoring the public buildings to good order has been steadily pursued so far as the funds at the disposal of the Department would allow. Two small houses for quarantine isolation purposes were erected at the Fort near Charlestown, in Nevis, and a disinfecting house at the Quarantine Station in St. Kitts was built.

The conversion of Queen's House, Nevis, into a hospital, now called after Her Majesty the Queen, "The Alexandra Hospital," was completed at a cost of £815.

The death-rate was very much below the average. Infantile mortality continues very high, but, as repeatedly stated, it is not merely a question of ignorance, but of morals. It will take time to bring about some real change and diminution, and, naturally, the habit of years cannot be changed in a few months.

The public health during the year under review was fairly satisfactory, no disease of a quarantinable nature visited the Presidency, and the Isolation Hospitals were not in requisition.

The total rainfall for the year under review was 48·10 inches, which was 4·30 inches above the average of the last seven years.

Dominica.

The revenue, exclusive of Imperial grant in aid of botanical services, &c., amounted to £40,510, being £7,030 in excess of the estimate, and £1,511 above that of the previous year. The expenditure was £36,541, as against an estimate of £33,016, and an expenditure in the previous year of £30,620. The excess of revenue over expenditure brought the surplus assets of the Presidency on 31st March, 1909, up to £17,701.

The total trade of the island in the year 1908 amounted to £265,127, of which sum £153,114 represented imports and £112,013 represented exports. The value of the imports exceeded all previous records, and was £24,464 above that of 1907.

The value of the produce shipped fell from £118,678 in 1907 to £92,239 in 1908. This reduction is not, however, indicative of a shortage in the output, but of a serious decline in the market values of the staple exports, cacao and lime products; the price of lime juice declined from £22 per hogshead of 50 gallons in 1907 to £15 in 1908.

The output of citrate of lime continued to show a small but progressive increase.

The satisfactory condition of the finances enabled an unusually large sum to be devoted to the repair and maintenance of public works and buildings generally, and of roads and bridges. A considerable sum was also expended on "extraordinary" public works, chief amongst which was the acquisition of Lots 41 and 42 in the town of Roseau, for Customs purposes, at a cost of £2,700, and of the premises on Lots 47 and 48, as export warehouses, at a cost of £1,000. Extensive repairs were effected on the seawall which protects the town of Roseau, a ferro-concrete bridge (the first to be constructed in the island), was erected over the Woodford Hill River, and preliminary work was carried out in connection with the bridging of the Rosalie River.

The favourable financial outlook also enabled the Government to retain the services of the Royal Mail coastal steamer "Yare" (the contract for which service expired on the 31st October) at the increased annual subsidy of £2,000.

Montserrat.

The Presidency of Montserrat is again to be congratulated on its favourable financial condition. Once more has the revenue beaten the record—this year by £718.

The surplus in 1908-9 amounted to £1,654, or £228 more than was anticipated.

The excess of assets on the 31st March, 1909, was £6,852, as compared with £1,299 (£972 of which was an Imperial loan, which has since been repaid) on the same date in 1906—an actual increase, therefore, of over £6,500 in three years.

The local revenue in 1908-09 was £10,950—irrespective of the Imperial Grant in aid of the Botanical Department—and is now just five times as large as it was fifty years ago.

The expenditure—exclusive of the amount spent from Imperial Funds on the Botanical Department—was £9,296, an increase over that of the previous year of £1,280, but this includes £1,746 for Public Works Extraordinary, and £249 for Public Works Recurrent—a total of almost £2,000 on useful and much-needed Public Works.

It is interesting to note that in the year 1904 the trade of the Presidency was valued at £42,513, while in 1908 the value has risen to £85,436, an increase of nearly £43,000. So that in the last four years the trade of Montserrat has more than doubled in value.

The value of exports in 1908 was £45,304—more than £10,000 in excess of the previous year, and £7,184 more than in the previous best year, 1882, when the value of exports was £38,120. This is a most satisfactory sign of the island's advancing prosperity.

Imports (general) rose from £4,413 in 1907-08 to £5,003 in 1908-09—an increase of £590.

Imports (alcoholic) also increased by £184, from £1,839 in 1907-08 to £2,023 in 1908-09.

The amount collected as export duty, however, decreased from £1,171 to £833—a drop of £338—due to small cotton and lime crops, owing to the unfortunate climatic conditions prevailing throughout the past season.

On the other hand, most of the other sources of revenue, including jetty rates, road tax, liquor and still licences, and receipts from the sale of postage stamps increased considerably. This last is, of course, a very uncertain source of revenue to any great extent, unless alterations in stamp issues create a demand on the part of the dealers.

A very severe storm on the 25th September did much damage to crops and building property. Over ninety of the peasants' houses were blown down, but fortunately few deaths or injuries to persons were recorded as a result of the hurricane.

The health conditions have been, as usual in this exceedingly healthy island, quite satisfactory.

The fruit-preserving and drawn-thread work industries have gone ahead in a most encouraging manner, and have been the means of distributing a considerable amount of cash in small sums among the class least able to turn their hands to heavy manual labour.

Several necessary and important public works were carried out during the year, chief among them being the new Government House, which has been completed and furnished in a satisfactory manner.

On the whole the year has been decidedly unfavourable to agriculture. Short crops of both cotton and limes—the staple industries—were reaped.

The severe storm in September, succeeded by prolonged drought, did much damage to both crops, while the unusually heavy rains in January ruined what might otherwise have proved a very successful second crop of cotton. Leaf blister mite was very prevalent, and in the latter part of the season the cotton bud maggot was found in many districts. Still, in spite of the unfavourable conditions, several estates made good crops, in two cases averaging 250 lb. and 220 lb. of lint per acre respectively.

The area under cotton was approximately 2,250 acres, as compared with 2,100 acres in the previous year; the number of peasant cultivators was 800, representing 520 acres, as against 400 acres last year.

The principal lime estates have suffered severely from the attacks of scale insects, but a thorough study of these pests is now being made by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and the outlook is more encouraging. Many thousands of young trees have recently been planted out successfully.

The manufacture of citrate of lime has been placed on a more efficient basis, and the exports of that product are increasing.

A result of the short cotton crop, and low prices obtainable, has been that more attention is being given to the cultivation of ground provisions than has been the case for several years past.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The general prosperity of these islands has been well maintained during the year under review. Notwithstanding very severe storms, which, to an appreciable extent, damaged growing crops, the value of the imports and exports show an increase of no less than 50 per cent. on those of five years ago.

The revenue, including a sum of £1,999 12*s*. 11*d*. received from the cotton and lime industries, amounted to £4,248 6*s*. 9½*d*., and the expenditure, including a sum of £2,514 2*s*. 1*d*. expended on these industries, but excluding the Grant-in-Aid of the Agricultural Department, amounted to £4,693 4*s*. 2*d*.

There is an apparent deficit of £444 17*s*. 4½*d*. on the year's transactions. The excess of the expenditure on these industries—£514 9*s*. 2*d*.—is covered by the cotton and seed unsold, valued at £1,032 8*s*. 8*d*. Therefore if these commercial transactions are omitted there will be a surplus on the year's transactions ending 31st March, 1909, of £69 11*s*. 10½*d*.

Cotton has again, for the first time since the end of the Civil War in the United States, become the chief export from these islands. The growers have had no difficulty in finding a market, as the whole crop of seed cotton was purchased by the Government from the peasantry for cash on delivery at the cotton ginnery. It is impossible to give even an approximately accurate estimate of the number of acres under cotton cultivation, all of it being grown in small plots, the great majority being not more than an acre in extent.

Nearly the whole land of the Virgin Islands is in the possession of the peasantry and is easily accessible to all. The total population of these islands numbers 5,000, and it is estimated that no less than 1,500 persons over fourteen years of age have been directly engaged in cultivating the recent crop, as seed was given out to more than this number, and that each householder has on an average benefited by the addition of £3 to his annual income. The quality of cotton grown, which was at one time unsatisfactory, shows a distinct improvement, and is now equal to that produced in the neighbouring West Indian Islands.

The price paid, owing to market conditions, has been somewhat lower than in previous years, and it is not anticipated that the coming crop will show such a striking increase. If no further fall in prices occurs, and if the enthusiastic peasantry can be taught the importance of keeping the usual pests under control, and of taking due care of his crop, cotton will probably for years to come be one of the chief exports of these islands.

Any person intending to settle in the Virgin Islands would have no difficulty in obtaining suitable land for cotton cultivation at a reasonable price, but he would probably find it impossible to obtain the necessary number of labourers, unless engaged outside these islands.

Lime juice, valued at £60, appears for the first time amongst the exports. The limes were purchased by the Government from the peasantry, and the concentrated juice prepared by the Agricultural Department. The soil seems very suitable for this cultivation, and it is hoped that a few years hence it also will become one of the chief exports.

Less attention is being paid to pastoral pursuits. The butchers in the Danish West Indies are the only purchasers of Virgin Islands stock. The market is unfortunately an uncertain one, as it is almost entirely dependent on the shipping in that part. Recently values have been very depressed owing to the importation of live stock to those ports for the first time from the Argentine Republic.

The business and number of local shopkeepers continues to increase. A few years ago the inhabitants purchased all their supplies from retail dealers in St. Thomas, but, owing to various causes, Road Town is now gradually taking its proper place as the commercial centre of these islands. This movement would receive a further impetus if it were found possible to arrange for a line of steamers to call at Road Harbour, as the delay and expenses of transhipping all cargo for this place to small sailing boats in the Danish West Indies would thus largely be avoided.

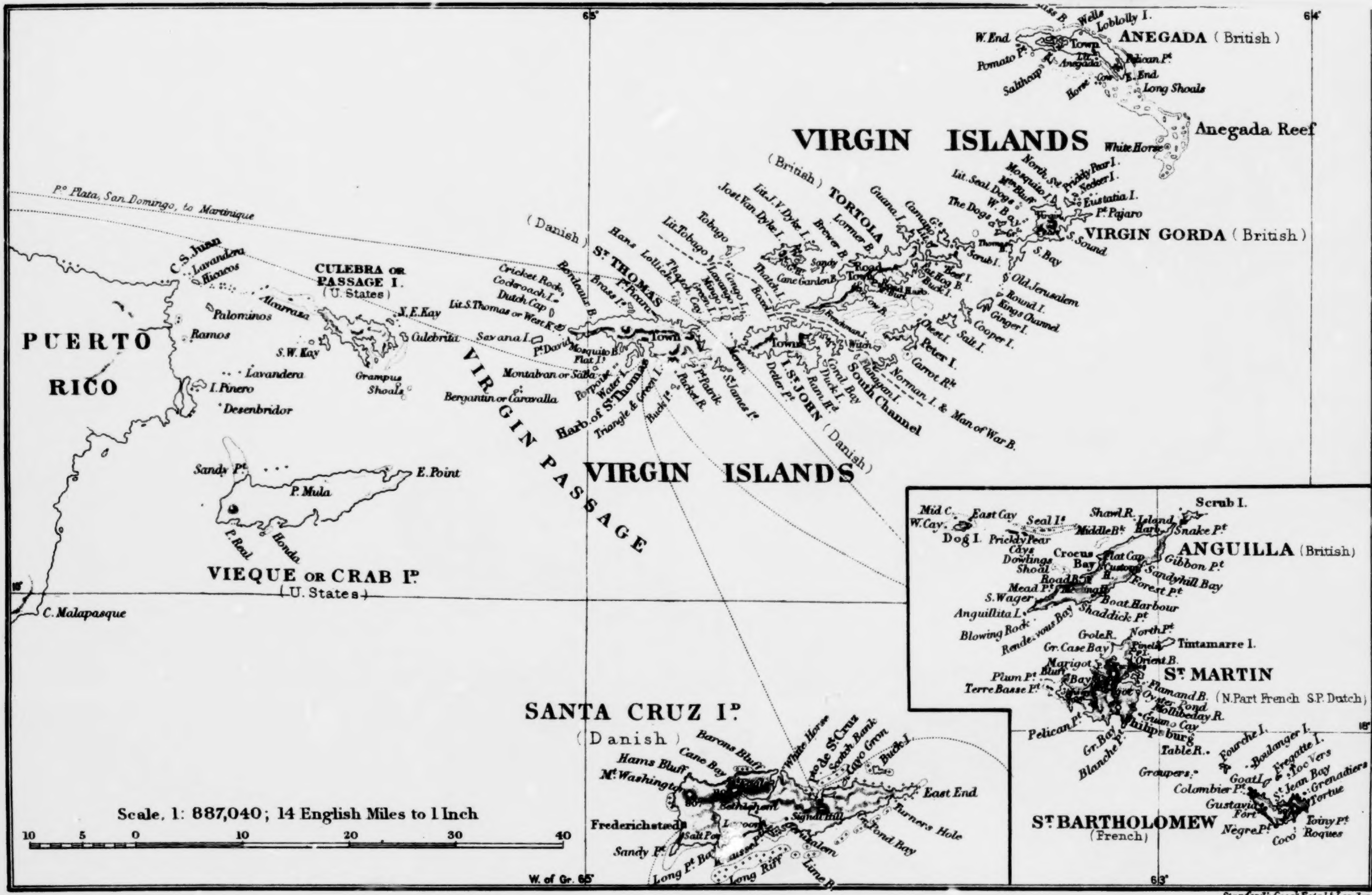
Arrangements have been made for the opening of an elementary school at North Sound, Virgin Gorda. The schools now number eight, an increase of three during the last five years. It is estimated that 95 per cent. of the children now receive some instruction.

The expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary was £179 5*s*. 3*d*., a larger amount than usual. A well was sunk at North Sound, Virgin Gorda, which will give the inhabitants an abundant supply of good water.

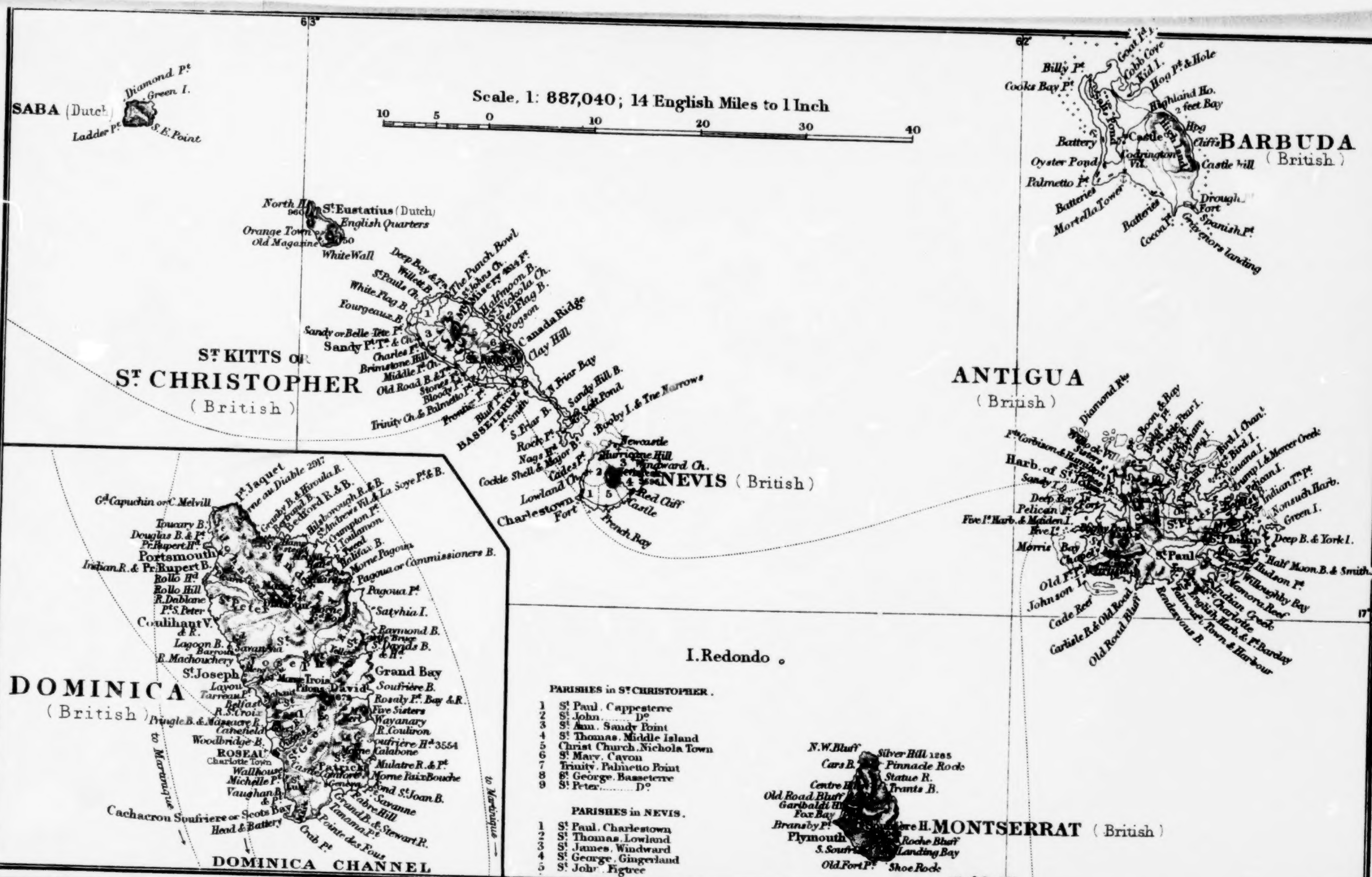
EDWARD B. JARVIS,

Acting Colonial Secretary,
Leeward Islands.

2nd November, 1909.


VIRGIN ISLANDS
(British)
ANEGADA (British)
Loblolly I.
Wells
W. End
Pomato Pt.
Town
Lit. Anegada
Pelican Pt.
Salthead
Horse
Cow
E. End
Long Shoals
Anegada Reef
White Horse
VIRGIN GORDA (British)
North Sd.
Prickly Pear I.
Necker I.
Mosquito I.
Eustatia I.
Pt. Pajaro
Lit. Seal Dogs
The Dogs
S. Sound
S. Bay
Old Jerusalem
Round I.
Kings Channel
Ginger I.
Cooper I.
Salt I.
Peter I.
Carrot Rk.
Norman I. & Man of War B.
TORTOLA
Guana I.
Camanoe
Lormer B.
Brewer B.
Road Town
Cane Garden B.
Scrub I.
Buck I.
Jost Van Dyke I.
Lit. J. V. Dyke I.
Tobago
Lit. Tobago
Thatch I.
Lovango
Mingo I.
Congo I.
Flanagan I.
South Channel
I. ST. JOHN
(Danish)
Town
Coral Bay
Ram Hd.
Duck I.
Deiter Pt.
St. James Is.
Pt. Frank
Rotket R.
Buck Is.
(Danish)
ST. THOMAS
Hans Lollick I.
Thatch Cay
Brass Is.
Bordeaux B.
Town
Harb. of St. Thomas
Triangle & Green I.
Water I.
Porpoise
Mosquito B.
Flat Is.
Pt. David
Savana I.
Cricket Rock
Cockroach I.
Dutch Cap
Lit. S. Thomas or West Rk.
Montalvan or Salba
Bergantin or Caravalla
VIRGIN PASSAGE
VIRGIN ISLANDS
CULEBRA OR PASSAGE I.
(U. States)
N. E. Kay
Culebrita
S. W. Kay
Grampus Shoals
Almirante
Palominos
C. S. Juan
Lavandera
Hicacos
Ramos
Lavandera
I. Pinero
Desenbridor
PUERTO RICO
Po. Plata, San Domingo, to Martinique
Sandy Pt.
E. Point
P. Mula
P. Real
Honda
VIEQUE OR CRAB Id.
(U. States)
C. Malapasque
18°
65°
64°
63°
W. of Gr. 65°
SANTA CRUZ Id.
(Danish)
Barons Bluff
Cane Bay
Hams Bluff
Mt. Washington
White Horse
Pto. de St. Cruz
Scotch Bank
Cayo Gran
Buck I.
East End
Turners Hole
Pond Bay
Signal Hill
Frederichsted
Salt Pond
Sandy Pt.
Long Pt. Bay
Long Riff
Lime B.
Scale, 1: 887,040; 14 English Miles to 1 Inch
10 5 0 10 20 30 40
Scrub I.
Mid C.
East Cay
Seal Is.
Shawl R.
W. Cay
Dog I.
Prickly Pear Cays
Middle Bk.
Island Harb.
Snake Pt.
ANGUILLA (British)
Dowlings Shoal
Crocus Bay
Flat Cap
Gibbon Pt.
Sandyhill Bay
Forest Pt.
Road
Mead Pt.
S. Wager
Boat Harbour
Shaddick Pt.
Anguillita I.
Blowing Rock
Rende-vous Bay
Gole R.
North Pt.
Gr. Case Bay
Tintamarre I.
Orient B.
Marigot
Plum Pt.
Terre Basse Pt.
ST. MARTIN
(N. Part French S. P. Dutch)
Flamand B.
Oyster Pond
Molibeday R.
Guana Cay
Philipsburg
Pelican Pt.
Gr. Bay
Blanche Pt.
Table R.
Fourche I.
Boulanger I.
Fregatte I.
Toc Vers
Groupers
Goat I.
St. Jean Bay
Grenadiers
Colombier Pt.
Gustavia
Fort
Tortue
Toiny Pt.
Negre Pt.
Coco
Roques
ST. BARTHOLOMEW
(French)

Stanford's Geog! Estab! London


Scale, 1: 887,040; 14 English Miles to 1 Inch
10 5 0 10 20 30 40
SABA (Dutch)
Diamond Pt
Green I.
Ladder Pt
S.E. Point
St Eustatius (Dutch)
North H.
English Quarters
Orange Town
Old Magazine
White Wall
St KITTS or
St CHRISTOPHER
(British)
BASSETERRE
Deep Bay
Willett B.
St Pauls Ch.
White Flag B.
Fourgeaux B.
Sandy or Belle Tete Pt
Sandy Pt
Charles Ft
Brimstone Hill
Middle Pt
Old Road B.
Stones Ft
Bloody Pt
Trinity Ch. & Palmetto Pt
Frontier Pt
Bluff Pt
The Punch Bowl
St Johns Ch.
Misery
Halfmoon B.
St Nickola Ch.
Red Flag B.
Pogson
Canada Ridge
Clay Hill
S. Friar Bay
Sandy Hill B.
Salt Pond
Booby I. & The Narrows
S. Friar B.
Rock Pt
Nags Hd
Cockle Shell & Mayor B.
Cades Pt
NEVIS (British)
Newcastle
Hurricane Hill
Windward Ch.
Red Cliff
Castle
Lowland Ch.
Charlestown
Fort
French Bay
BARBUDA
(British)
Billy Pt
Cooks Bay Pt
Goat Pt
Cobb Cove
Kid I.
Hog Pt & Hole
Highland Ho.
2 feet Bay
Salt Pond
Castle
Codrington Vil.
Battery
Oyster Pond
Palmetto Pt
Batteries
Mortella Tower
Hog Cliffs
Castle Hill
Drough Pt
Fort
Spanish Pt
Cocoa Pt
Grovenors landing
ANTIGUA
(British)
Diamond Rk
Boon & Bay
Harb. of St Johns
Sandy I.
Deep Bay
Pelican Pt
Five Is Harb. & Maiden I.
Five Is
Morris Bay
Old Ft
Johnson I.
Cade Reef
Carlisle B. & Old Road
Old Road Bluff
Rendezvous B.
Falmouth Town & Harbour
English Harb. & Ft Barclay
Ft Charlotte
Indian Creek
Mamora Reef
Willoughby Bay
Hudson Pt
Half Moon B. & Smith
Deep B. & York I.
Green I.
Nonsuch Harb.
Indian Tn Pt
Pelican I.
Guana I.
Bird I.
Mercer Creek
St Peter
St Philip
St Paul
I. Redondo
MONTSERRAT (British)
N.W. Bluff
Silver Hill 1285
Cars B.
Pinnacle Rock
Statue R.
Trants B.
Centre H.
Old Road Bluff
Garibaldi H.
Fox Bay
Bransby Pt
Plymouth
S. Soufriere H.
Roche Bluff
Landing Bay
Old Fort Pt
Shoe Rock
W. of Gr. 62°
63°
62°
17°
DOMINICA
(British)
DOMINICA CHANNEL
to Martinique
Gd Capuchin or C. Melvill
Pt Jaquet
Morne au Diable 2917
Granby B. & Hiroula R.
Bertrand B.
Bedford R. & B.
Hillsborough R. & B.
St Andrews Vil. & La Soye Pt & B.
Crompton Pt
Toucary B.
Douglas B. & Pt
Pr. Rupert Hd
Portsmouth
Indian R. & Pr. Rupert B.
Rollo Hd
Rollo Hill
R. Dablane
Pt S. Peter
Coulihaut V. & R.
Lagoon B.
Barroui
Savannah
R. Machouchery
St Joseph
Layou Pt
Tarreau Pt
Belfast
Pringle B. & Massacre R.
R. S. Croix
Canefield
Woodbridge B.
ROSEAU
Charlotte Town
Wallhouse
Michelle Pt
Vaughan B. & Pt
Cachacrou Soufriere or Scots Bay
Head & Battery
Crab Pt
Pointe des Fous
Tanama Pt
Grand B. & Stewart R.
Fabre Hill
Savanne
Pond St Joan B.
Morne Paix Bouche
Mulatre R. & Pt
Calabone
Soufriere Hd 3554
R. Couliron
Wayanary
Five Sisters
Rosaly Pt Bay & R.
Soufriere B.
Grand Bay
St Davids B.
Raymond B.
Satyhia I.
Pagoua Pt
Pagoua or Commissioners B.
Morne Pagoua
Halifax B.
I. Toullamon
Morne Trois Pitons
St David
St Patrick
St George
St Peter
PARISHES in St CHRISTOPHER.
1 St Paul, Cappesterre
2 St John, Do
3 St Ann, Sandy Point
4 St Thomas, Middle Island
5 Christ Church, Nichola Town
6 St Mary, Cayon
7 Trinity, Palmetto Point
8 St George, Basseterre
9 St Peter, Do
PARISHES in NEVIS.
1 St Paul, Charlestown
2 St Thomas, Lowland
3 St James, Windward
4 St George, Gingerland
5 St John, Figtree

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
594	Northern Nigeria	1907–1908
595	Basutoland	"
596	Swaziland	"
597	St. Helena	1908
598	Gibraltar	"
599	Falkland Islands	"
600	Uganda	1907–1908
601	Imperial Institute	1908
602	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
603	Ashanti	"
604	Ceylon	"
605	Weihaiwei	"
606	Seychelles	"
607	Jamaica	1907–1908
608	Colonial Survey Committee	1908–1909
609	Gambia	1908
610	Malta	1908–1909
611	Sierra Leone	1908
612	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
613	Gold Coast	"
614	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1908–1909
615	Bahamas	"
616	St. Lucia	1908
617	Hong Kong	"
618	Fiji	"
619	Nyasaland Protectorate	1908–1909
620	Barbados	"
621	Trinidad and Tobago	"
622	Straits Settlements	1908
623	Somaliland	1908–1909
624	Mauritius	1908
625	St. Vincent	1908–1909
626	Jamaica	"
627	Swaziland	"
628	Grenada	1908

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
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57	Uganda	Governor's Tour.
58	British Colonies	Fibres.
59	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1906–7.
60	Nyasaland Protectorate	do. 1907–8.
61	South Africa	Agriculture and Viticulture.
62	Uganda Protectorate	Cotton Industry.
63	Imperial Institute	Gums and Resins.
64	Uganda	Botany and Forestry.
65	Do.	Sleeping Sickness.

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1910.

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No. 673.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1909-10.

(For Report for 1908-9, *see* No. 629.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
March, 1911.

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No. 673.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1908-9, *see* No. 629.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Antigua,
5th January, 1911.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward a report by Mr. H. E. W. Grant, the Colonial Secretary, on the Blue Book of the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1909-10.

I have, &c.,
BICKHAM SWEET-ESCOTT,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1909-10.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies composing the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1910 (exclusive of grants-in-aid of the Agricultural Department from the Imperial Government, amounting to £3,134), was £149,670, showing a decrease of £4,663 in comparison with the revenue for the year 1908-9.

The following table shows the amount of revenue collected in each Presidency (exclusive of Imperial grants-in-aid of the Agricultural Department) during the last five years, as also the increase or decrease as compared with 1908-9:—

Presidency.	1905–6.	1906–7.	1907–8.	1908–9.	1909–10.	Increase 1909–10 over 1908–9.	Decrease 1909–10 under 1908–9.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	48,798	44,175	50,620	51,502	48,583	—	2,919
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	47,145	49,613	49,336	47,133	47,343	210	—
Dominica	31,200	33,209	38,999	40,500	38,937	—	1,563
Montserrat ...	7,433	8,732	10,232	10,950	10,612	—	338
Virgin Islands ...	2,478	2,425	3,421	4,248	4,195	—	53
Total ...	137,054	138,154	152,608	154,333	149,670	210	4,873

IMPERIAL GRANTS.

The Imperial grants-in-aid of the Agricultural Department were as follow:—

	£
Antigua	671
St. Kitts-Nevis	780
Dominica	583
Montserrat	550
Virgin Islands	550
Total	£3,134

The following is a return showing the number of licences issued in the Leeward Islands in 1909 for the sale of intoxicating liquors and the revenue derived therefrom:—

Presidency.	No. of Licences.	Revenue.
		£
Antigua	19	705
St. Kitts-Nevis	42	1,632
Dominica	117	1,187
Montserrat	38	180
Virgin Islands	17	38

The aggregate expenditure for the year 1909-10 (exclusive of that in respect of the Agricultural Department from Imperial grants-in-aid) was £149,906, as against £146,216 for the year 1908-9, showing an increase of £3,690.

The expenditure of each Presidency during the last five years is shown in the following table, as is also the increase or decrease as compared with 1908-9:—

Presidency.	1905–6.	1906–7.	1907–8.	1908–9.	1909–10.	Increase 1909–10 over 1908–9.	Decrease 1909–10 under 1908–9.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua... ...	54,383*	45,207	46,968	49,964†	49,204‡	—	760
St. Kitts-Nevis...	44,026§	46,067‖	46,121	45,722	47,932	2,210	—
Dominica ...	34,187	30,114	30,620	36,541	41,276	4,735	—
Montserrat ...	7,107	6,578	8,016	9,296	7,807¶	—	1,489
Virgin Islands...	2,511	2,032	3,823**	4,693	3,687	—	1,006
Total ...	142,214	129,998	135,548	146,216	149,906	6,945	3,255

* Included £5,771 repayment of loans.
† " £1,542 " " "
‡ " £500 " " "
§ " £250 " " "
‖ " £2,900 " " "
¶ " £500 " " "
** " £1,772 expended on the cotton industry.

Note.—Antigua received in 1906–7 £3,542 3*s*. 9*d*. Imperial grant-in-aid of revenue in excess of requirements, of which the sum of £2,042 3*s*. 9*d*. has been repaid.

The expenditure from Imperial funds on the Agricultural Department was as follows:—

	£
Antigua	654
St. Kitts-Nevis	767
Dominica	583
Montserrat	567
Virgin Islands	609
Total	£3,180

There was a surplus of assets over liabilities on the 31st March, 1910, in Antigua of £8,111, in St. Kitts-Nevis of £16,491, in Dominica of £15,361, in Montserrat of £9,657, and in the Virgin Islands of £113, making a net surplus for the whole Colony of £49,733.

The assets and liabilities of the Colony on the 31st March, 1910, as compared with the assets and liabilities on the 31st March, 1909, are shown below:—

	1908-9.	1909-10.
	£	£
Assets	63,938	73,053
Liabilities	13,968	23,320
Surplus of Assets	£49,970	£49,733

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounts to £273,450. During the year it was reduced by the sum of £200, repayment by Antigua on account of the St. John's Savings Bank Loan.

The following table shows the amount of the loans raised and the sums standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds at the 31st March, 1910:—

Presidency.	Total amount of loans raised.	Amount to credit of Sinking Fund.
	£	£
Antigua	135,141	40,314
St. Kitts-Nevis	67,250	16,556
Dominica	65,000	15,815
Montserrat	11,100	2,408
	278,491	75,093
Less amount repaid ...	5,041	—
Total	£273,450	£75,093

Municipalities.

The Government of the City of St. John, Antigua, is vested in five Commissioners, under the control of the Governor in Executive Council. Two of the Commissioners must be persons not holding any office of emolument under the Crown.

There are also Town Boards in Basseterre, St. Kitts, and Roseau, Dominica.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total value of imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1909, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £471,026, as against £546,750 in 1908, being a decrease of £75,724.

The total value of the exports, exclusive of internal trade, was £420,800, as against £517,467 in 1908, showing a decrease of £96,667.

The following tables exhibit the value of the imports and exports during the last five years, exclusive of internal trade:—

Imports.

Year.	Antigua.	St Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Mont-serrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1905 ...	132,937	161,154	91,002	12,877	5,511	403,481
1906 ...	125,754	157,705	100,866	16,514	6,412	407,251
1907 ...	164,587	178,556	125,643	24,195	7,009	499,990
1908 ...	175,587	184,002	150,651	28,195	8,315	546,750
1909 ...	139,496	171,939	124,685	27,524	7,382	471,026
Total ...	738,361	853,356	592,847	109,305	34,629	2,328,498

Exports.

Year.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Mont-serrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1905 ...	99,862	210,936	75,649	16,231	5,077	407,755
1906 ...	93,842	156,789	104,253	18,564	5,760	379,208
1907 ...	172,410	185,727	122,697	30,076	5,951	516,861
1908 ...	179,106	180,539	109,393	41,434	6,995	517,467
1909 ...	114,122	172,659	100,018	26,550	7,451	420,800
Total ...	659,342	906,650	512,010	132,855	31,234	2,242,091

Imports and Exports.

Year.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Mont-serrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1905 ...	232,799	372,090	166,651	29,108	10,588	811,236
1906 ...	219,596	314,494	205,119	35,078	12,172	786,459
1907 ...	336,997	364,283	248,340	54,271	12,960	1,016,851
1908 ..	354,693	364,541	260,044	69,629	15,310	1,064,217
1909 ...	253,618	344,598	224,703	54,074	14,833	891,826
Total ...	1,397,703	1,760,006	1,104,857	242,160	65,863	4,570,589

IMPORTS.

The following table exhibits the value of the imports for each of the last five years, distinguishing the countries whence the imports came, and showing the increase or decrease in 1909 as compared with 1908:—

Country whence Imported.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	Increase 1909 over 1908.	Decrease 1909 under 1908.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom...	177,119	178,587	231,018	225,773	133,426	—	42,347
British Colonies ...	62,019	68,227	74,844	99,976	81,608	—	18,368
United States of America.	151,968	147,020	177,282	201,350	190,107	—	11,243
Other Foreign Countries.	12,375	13,417	16,846	19,651	15,885	—	3,766
Total ...	403,481	407,251	499,990	546,750	471,026	—	75,724

EXPORTS.

The value of the exports during each of the last five years, distinguishing the countries to which the exports were sent, and showing the increase or decrease in 1909, as compared with 1908, is shown in the following table:—

Countries to which exported.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	Increase 1909 over 1908.	Decrease 1909 under 1908.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom...	122,970	141,614	214,857	159,161	147,318	—	11,843
British Colonies ...	226,653	178,445	236,670	261,529	202,086	—	59,443
United States of America.	35,278	43,143	45,700	72,245	38,287	—	33,958
Other Foreign Countries.	22,754	16,006	29,634	24,532	33,109	8,577	—
Total ...	407,755	379,208	516,861	517,467	420,800	8,577	105,244

The value of the trade between the Presidencies for the years 1905 to 1909 was as under:—

Year.	Value.
	£
1905	17,325
1906	16,501
1907	17,434
1908	20,843
1909	35,295

Sugar.

The quantity of sugar exported from each Presidency during the years 1905 to 1909 is shown below:—

Presidency.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	7,776	9,996	13,972	12,501	8,619
St. Kitts-Nevis...	12,312	15,142	14,132	10,986	11,621
Dominica	181	82	107	24	—
Montserrat	134	351	207	60	38
Virgin Islands	11	—	1	1	—
Total	20,414	25,571	28,419	23,572	20,278

Cotton.

The following is a return of cotton exported from the Presidencies of Antigua (including Barbuda), St. Kitts-Nevis (including Anguilla), Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands, during the years 1905-9, and to 31st March, 1910:—

Presidency.	1905.		1906.		1907.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£
Antigua	54,720	3,192	99,948	6,455	191,220	17,479
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	163,778	12,283	298,519	22,389	464,445	39,067
Montserrat ...	82,312	6,173	86,698	6,502	219,280	17,620
Virgin Islands ...	4,100	135	6,975	205	10,033	544
Total ...	304,910	21,783	492,140	35,551	884,978	74,710

Presidency.	1908.		1909.		To 31st March, 1910.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value
	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£
Antigua	178,100	12,983	59,560	3,248	36,736	2,690
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	459,309	33,002	404,058	25,970	217,732	16,330
Montserrat ...	391,068	28,371	202,542	11,882	136,157	10,212
Virgin Islands ...	32,520	1,992	52,528	2,531	11,229	702
Total ...	1,060,997	76,348	719,088	41,631	401,854	29,934

MANUFACTURES, MINES, AND FISHERIES.

Sugar is the principal manufacture in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis. In St. Kitts the distilling of rum is of some importance.

The staple in Dominica and Montserrat is lime-juice. The production of citrate of lime in those islands is being developed.

There is a sulphur mine at Soufrière, in Dominica, but it is not worked at present. Phosphate of lime is found in Barbuda, and phosphate of alumina in Redonda.

Negotiations are in progress for granting a concession to re-open and work for a term of years an old mine in Virgin Gorda containing molybdenum.

There is no recognised fishing industry in the Colony. Fish are caught for local consumption only, except in the Virgin Islands, whence large quantities are exported to the neighbouring Danish island of St. Thomas.

The principal fish caught are kingfish, barracouta, margate, snapper, and cavally. Lobsters are also plentiful.

Sea-fishing with rod and reel, as a pastime, has been introduced with success, especially in the waters of Antigua. A spoon-bait is most generally used. Several large fish have been caught, among which may be mentioned a cavally, by Mr. E. B. Jarvis (the Assistant Colonial Secretary), in May, 1909, off Iguana Island, 40 lbs.; a red snapper, by Mr. T. E. Peters, in November, 1909, off English Harbour, 56 lbs.; a red snapper, by Major Ledeatt (Commanding the Antigua Defence Force), in March, 1910, off Iguana Island, 54 lbs.; and, on the same day, a barracouta, by Lieutenant Neale Thomson (A.D.C. to His Excellency the Governor), off Long Island, 56 lbs. In addition, many tarpon have been taken by rod and reel off Barbuda.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANIC STATIONS.*

Activity in agricultural matters was well maintained in the Colony during the year 1909-10.

The sugar crop of Antigua amounted to £8,671 tons, exported, of which 4,753 tons were crystals and 3,918 tons muscovado. The production, as compared with the crop in 1908-9, showed a decrease of 3,835 tons, and was 1,790 tons below the average of the last 10 years. This shortage is to be attributed to the unpropitious season, the actual rainfall being deficient and its distribution very unfavourable to the growth of a sugar crop.

The Central Sugar Factory at Gunthorpes (Antigua) produced 4,012 tons of crystals, 9·26 tons of canes being required to make 1 ton of sugar. This factory purchased 2,062 tons of peasant canes, at prices ranging from 9*s.* 4*d.* to 10*s.* 2½*d.* per ton. At Bendal's Factory, 741 tons of crystals were made.

In St. Kitts, the sugar crop amounted to 12,027 tons, which is 983 tons in excess of that of the previous year. Here the season was more favourable with a larger rainfall. The increased interest taken in the cultivation of cane in Nevis resulted in a larger return of sugar from that island.

The attention given to the introduction and establishment of the newer varieties of sugar cane, both in Antigua and St. Kitts, is well kept up, 75 per cent. of the acreage planted in St. Kitts being seedling varieties.

On the whole, the season was favourable for the growth of cotton, there being a very marked absence of insect pests, and the general returns were favourable.

In Antigua, owing to the losses sustained in the previous year from the attacks of the "Flower-bud maggot," the acreage was much decreased, only 225 acres being planted in Antigua, and 120 in Barbuda. The average return of lint per acre was, however, satisfactory, being about 150 lbs. With the better results from this small area it is hoped that increased attention may again be given to this industry, which should prove a valuable auxiliary to the sugar crop.

In St. Kitts the area was also somewhat reduced, only 1,100 acres being planted, the result, probably, of the fall in prices in the previous year. The returns, however, were most satisfactory, an average of 200 lbs. of lint per acre being obtained. There is every prospect of the acreage planted being greatly increased during the coming season.

In Nevis the returns were also more satisfactory than in the previous year, the average yield per acre being 150 lbs. of lint. The acreage planted was reduced to 900 acres, which was due to the poor yields and low prices of the previous season, more attention being devoted to cane cultivation.

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* Information furnished by F. R. Shepherd, Esquire, Acting Superintendent of Agriculture.

In Anguilla, owing to a very unpropitious season, the returns were not satisfactory, but the good prices obtained still enable the industry to be continued on a sound basis.

At Montserrat, with an acreage reduced by 700 acres, the output exceeded that of the previous year, an average return of 150 lbs. of lint per acre being obtained. This satisfactory yield, in addition to the good prices, has tended to increase the cultivation and firmly establish the industry.

The amount of cotton planted by peasants is a striking feature of the industry in Montserrat, resulting in the opening up of a large area of forest land.

In the Virgin Islands much attention was paid to supplying the small growers with the best seed for planting, but the conditions there were not so favourable as in previous years.

The prices obtained for cotton ranged from 1*s*. 6*d*. to 1*s*. 10½*d*. per lb. of lint. As a consequence of these prices, and the satisfactory yield in many islands, a considerable increase in the acreage planted in the Colony during the coming season may be expected.

In Dominica, the lime industry continues to be in a sound condition. The crop for the year was 284,000 barrels, an increase of 7,000 barrels over that of the previous year. The yield from trees just beginning to bear on newly formed estates would seem to account for this increase.

The weather conditions were good, and scale insects kept under control by their natural enemies.

There was a considerable extension of the area cultivated, as plants sufficient for 300 acres were sold from the Botanic Station; and plants, in addition, were raised on the estates themselves. Much attention was paid to the manuring of the trees, which, if continued, will lead to an increased yield per acre, and so improve the condition of the industry.

The business in green limes was further developed. The quantity exported during the year was 22,523 barrels, an increase of 2,180 barrels over that of the previous year. The value, however, was £145 less than that of the limes shipped in 1908. The Permanent Exhibition Committee continued to endeavour to popularise the lime in England and Canada by advertisements of all kinds, and, as a result, the shipments to London steadily increased. Over 20,000 barrels were also sent to New York.

The export of that valuable product, citrate of lime, continued to increase, the quantity shipped in 1909 being 3,447 cwt., valued at £11,203, as against 2,512 cwt., valued at £8,164, in 1908. The export of citrate of lime will probably grow until it replaces the common-grade, concentrated lime-juice.

In Montserrat the total value of lime-juice products was about £8,900. The yield was an average one, and there was no marked progress to record. Insect pests were particularly virulent in the limes for two years past, and large sections suffered. The planting of the Bangal bean, to act as a covering on the trees, proved to be very successful as a protection against the attacks of these pests.

In Antigua there is more interest shown in the cultivation of limes than formerly, and the land devoted to it is steadily extending. In Nevis considerable interest is also being taken in this product, larger areas being planted each year. In St. Kitts the area brought under cultivation is also increasing, and in the Virgin Islands there is a small, growing industry.

In Dominica the quantity of cacao exported was slightly in excess of that of the previous year, 10,884 cwt. being shipped in 1909, as against 9,820 cwt. in 1908. The output was not satisfactory, having regard to the acreage planted, which would seem to point to the fact that some of the plantations are established under conditions in which the trees will not thrive.

The practice of grafting selected varieties was continued by the Agricultural Department. The results obtained were excellent.

In Montserrat 5,500 lbs. of cacao were exported, of the value of £186.

In Nevis and St. Kitts the interest in this industry was maintained, but there was no great increase in the area planted during the year. In these islands cacao can only be planted in sheltered situations, and it is not probable that the industry will develop to any great extent.

Attention was paid to rubber in Dominica, where there was a considerable demand for seedlings of the Para variety. Seeds in large number were imported by the Botanic Station during the year for the purpose of raising seedlings.

In Antigua the small onion industry established there continued to meet with some success. About 58 acres were planted during the year, and it is probable that there will be some slight increase in the near future. In all the other Presidencies onions are grown on a small scale, chiefly for home consumption.

An interest in cocoanuts continued to be shown in Nevis and in Antigua. About 100 acres in each island were devoted to this industry. So far, there is a good promise of success, especially in Nevis, where the trees made rapid growth.

Botanic Stations are maintained in every island, affording a valuable medium for disseminating information to planters on all agricultural matters, and also for distributing plants and seeds.

Experiments are carried on with sugar cane, cotton, cacao, limes, and other products, reports on which are published periodically in the organs of the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

The series of reading courses and examinations in the practice of agriculture, instituted by the Imperial Department of Agriculture with a view of raising the standard of proficiency of the overseers on estates, has worked well.

Certificates are granted by the Department to successful candidates in the Preliminary and Intermediate Examinations both in Antigua and St. Kitts.

LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

The value of land in the Colony varies in accordance with its suitability for the cultivation of sugar cane or other products. In Dominica Crown lands can be purchased at 10*s.* an acre. In

Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane-growing land varies from £4 to £8 an acre.

In Antigua there are over 2,000 acres of land at Piccadilly, Red Hill, and the Ridge, on which there is much valuable timber. In the event of the erection of a sugar factory in that district, favourable sections of these lands will doubtless be taken up for the cultivation of sugar cane.

SHIPPING.

Comparing the figures with those for the year 1908, there was a decrease of 172,616 tons in steam vessels and a decrease of 8,595 tons in sailing vessels entered and cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1909.

The following table shows the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in each Presidency during each of the last five years, including both steam and sailing vessels, and the increase or decrease in 1909 as compared with 1908:—

Presidency.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	Increase 1909 over 1908.	Decrease 1909 under 1908.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua ...	560,297	539,135	567,678	722,862	643,966	—	78,896
St. Kitts-Nevis	596,993	624,603	620,435	638,961	593,942	—	45,019
Dominica ...	584,249	481,669	508,631	746,640	713,227	—	33,413
Montserrat ...	417,133	309,247	309,778	384,472	362,158	—	22,314
Virgin Islands	13,800	12,599	13,796	14,422	12,853	—	1,569
Total ...	2,172,472	1,967,253	2,020,318	2,507,357	2,326,146	—	181,211

III.—LEGISLATION.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

The General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands was in Session on the 9th January, and from the 22nd to the 26th February, 1909. Fourteen Acts were passed, including:—

Cotton Industry (*No.* 8).—The Governor may, under this Act, make advances to be applied to the planting and production, or reaping, of cotton crops in the island of Anguilla or its Dependencies. The rate of interest on such advances is fixed at 5 per cent. per annum, and a charge is made of 2 per cent. on the sum advanced for administrative expenses. The loans are to be made from such funds as may be provided for the purpose by the Legislative Council of St. Kitts-Nevis.

Quarantine (*No.* 12).—This Act was passed for the purpose of giving effect to certain recommendations of the Central Quarantine Authority, established under the West Indian Intercolonial Sanitary Convention. Additional precautions were taken against plague, 10 days being substituted for 5 in the Articles of the Convention prescribing observation or surveillance in respect of that disease.

Antigua.

Five Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of Antigua. By No. 5 printers and publishers of newspapers are required to give bond in the sum of £200, with one or more sureties, securing the payment of penalties adjudged against them on conviction for printing any blasphemous, seditious, or other libel.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The Legislative Council of St. Christopher and Nevis passed six Ordinances during 1909, including one similar to Antigua Ordinance No. 5 of 1909.

Dominica.

Five Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of Dominica, including one similar to Antigua Ordinance No. 5 of 1909.

Montserrat.

During 1909, five Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of Montserrat, including one similar to Antigua Ordinance No. 5 of 1909.

Virgin Islands.

Five Ordinances for the Virgin Islands were made by the Governor during the year 1909, including one similar to Antigua Ordinance No. 5 of 1909.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The number of children on the registers of the Government and grant-aided schools in the Colony during the year 1909-10 was 24,474, as against 23,681 in the year 1908-9. The average daily attendance was 11,587, as against 10,698 for the previous year.

The following table exhibits the number of children on the registers and the average attendance in the elementary schools of the several Presidencies or islands of the Colony, together with the percentage of those registered in the whole Colony who were in average attendance, during the last five years:—

Presidency or Island.	On Registers.				
	1905–6.	1906–7.	1907–8.	1908–9.	1909–10.
Antigua	6,531	6,580	6,582	6,747	6,677
St. Kitts with Anguilla ...	6,247	6,412	6,421	6,235	6,355
Nevis	2,650	2,735	2,679	2,656	2,899
Dominica	4,809	4,786	4,505	4,189	4,438
Montserrat	3,188	3,185	3,158	3,000	3,190
Virgin Islands	586	614	654	854	915
Total	24,011	24,312	23,999	23,681	24,474

Presidency or Island.	Average Attendance.				
	1905–6.	1906–7.	1907–8.	1908–9.	1909–10.
Antigua	2,747	2,791	3,027	3,040	3,422
St. Kitts with Anguilla ...	2,789	2,639	2,637	2,704	2,728
Nevis	1,143	1,295	1,276	1,389	1,356
Dominica	1,969	2,110	1,981	1,763	2,014
Montserrat	1,370	1,480	1,474	1,452	1,596
Virgin Islands	258	303	302	350	471
Total	10,276	10,618	10,697	10,698	11,587
Per cent. for whole Colony...	42·8	43·6	44·6	45·1	47·3

The number enrolled on the registers of the schools in 1909-10 was the highest recorded in the history of elementary education in the Colony, exceeding by 185 the previous best record, in 1904-5.

This increase in the number on the registers since 1891, the year after the introduction of compulsory education, has been 6,788, or 38 per cent.

The percentage of children on the registers who were in average attendance at the schools was the highest recorded since the year 1896, when it was 48·9.

The following table gives the percentage of children on the rolls in average attendance during the year 1909-10, as compared with the average attendance in 1902-3:—

Presidency or Island.	Percentage in Average Attendance.	
	1902-3.	1909-10.
Colony	45·4	47·3
Antigua	47·5	51·2
St. Kitts with Anguilla	44·9	42·3
Nevis	43·8	46·7
Dominica	44·1	45·4
Montserrat	46·5	50·0
Virgin Islands	39·1	51·4

The cost of elementary education was derived from the sources shown below:—

—	School Fees.	Government Grant.	Voluntary Contributions.
	£	£	£
Antigua	26	1,502	171
St. Kitts	—	1,411	66
Nevis	—	649	40
Anguilla	—	202	48
Dominica	—	—	—
Montserrat	—	654	28
Virgin Islands	4	165	44
Total	30	4,583	397

The following list of the secondary education schools of the Colony shows the amount granted in 1909-10 from local funds in aid of such schools:—

	£
Antigua Grammar School[*]	250
Antigua Girls' High School[†]	125
Thomas Oliver Robinson Memorial School, Antigua	25
St. Kitts Grammar School[‡]	612
Miss Wattley's School, St. Kitts[§]	115
Miss Bridgewater's School, Nevis[‖]	74
Dominica Grammar School[¶]	431

The sum of £150 was granted from Federal funds in aid of the Moravian Training College for Females, Antigua, and the sum of £60 was provided for the training of six male students at the Mico College, Jamaica, three of whom are selected annually after open competition at the pupil teachers' examination.

The following grants-in-aid were contributed from Imperial funds:—

	£
Antigua Grammar School—	
Agricultural and Science Master	165
Allowance to Agricultural and Science Master for quarters	15
Scholarships	70
Contingencies	15
St. Kitts Grammar School—	
Scholarships	90
Dominica Agricultural School—	
Officer in Charge...	160
Other salaries	70
General maintenance	320
Total	£905

ST. JOHN'S TRAINING SCHOOL.

There is one industrial school in the Colony, viz., the St. John's Training School in Antigua, established under the provisions of Leeward Islands Act, No. 4 of 1891, for the reformation, education, and training of persons under 18 years of age.

The number of boys in the school on the 1st April, 1909, was 52. Fourteen were received during the year ended 31st March, 1910, and 13 discharged, leaving a total of 53.

The daily average for the year of the boys admitted from the several Presidencies was as follows:—

---

[*] Includes £50 for scholarships.

[†] " £25 " "

[‡] " £150 for agricultural and science master, who is also attached to the agricultural school.

[§] Includes £40 for scholarships.

[‖] " £24 " "

[¶] " £30 " "

Antigua	28·5
St. Kitts-Nevis	15·0
Dominica	8·0
Montserrat	1·0
Virgin Islands	1·0
Total	53·5

The boys were given about 15 hours of school instruction in each week by the officers, who performed this duty in turn. They attended the places of Divine worship to which they had been accustomed to go before their admission to the school.

The health of the school was excellent. The boys were employed, as in former years, in agricultural and garden work, in addition to the various duties connected with the indoor department of the school.

The undermentioned produce was obtained from the land attached to the school:—

	Lbs.
Sweet potatoes	2,420
Cotton lint	1,000
Cotton seed	2,543

The Presidencies contribute at the rate of £10 a year for each boy sent to the school.

The revenue from all sources amounted to £350 and the expenditure (including pensions, £112, and the estimated value of the rent of the school and Chief Officer's quarters, £70), to £763.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

In the year 1909, 2,732 patients were admitted into the hospitals of the Colony. There were 358 deaths.

There is a central lunatic asylum in Antigua. On the 1st January, 1909, there were 113 inmates (53 males and 60 females); 41 (15 males and 26 females) were admitted; 7 (1 male and 6 females) were cured; and 32 (13 males and 19 females) died.

There are two leper asylums in the Colony: one at Rat Island in Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles in St. Kitts.

In Antigua there were 34 lepers (18 males and 16 females) at the beginning of the year; 2 (females) were admitted during the year; and 5 (4 males and 1 female) died.

There is no record in Antigua of any attendant at the asylum having contracted leprosy.

The number of inmates in the Antigua Poor-house on the 1st January, 1909, was 86 (26 males and 60 females); 28 inmates were admitted during the year and 10 discharged.

The number of persons who received out-door relief in the Colony during 1909 was as follows:—Antigua, 511; St. Kitts, 1,000; Nevis, 600; Dominica, 132; Montserrat, 91; and the Virgin Islands, 71.

The Alexandra Cottage Home for Incurables in Dominica, supported partly by voluntary contributions, maintained, on an average, eight paupers.

St. John's Training School in Antigua has been dealt with under Part IV., Education.

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank and the amounts at their credit on the 31st March, 1910, are noted below:—

Presidency.	No. of Depositors.	Amount at Credit.
		£
Antigua	1,953	44,051
St. Kitts-Nevis	653	20,378
Dominica	664	13,418
Montserrat	213	4,101
Virgin Islands	98	325

The following table shows the number of depositors and the amounts deposited and withdrawn in the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Deposited.	Withdrawn.
		£	£
1905	3,050	24,702	23,616
1906	3,045	27,017	25,183
1907	3,533	36,666	27,777
1908	3,473	33,550	32,492
1909	3,581	32,388	32,220

The total amount of invested funds is £79,881.

The revenue amounted to £1,857 and the expenditure to £1,838.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The total number of persons in the Colony committed to prison during the year 1909 was 1,250 (649 males, 576 females, and 25 juveniles).

The number of committals in Antigua was 257, as against 238 in 1908.

The number of prisoners transferred from the other Presidencies to the Central Prison, Antigua, was as under:—

Presidency.	Males.	Females.	Total.
St. Kitts-Nevis	7	1	8
Dominica	10	—	10
Montserrat	1	—	1
Virgin Islands	2	—	2
Total	20	1	21

The prisoners were employed in the usual service of the prison, such as in cooking for the prisoners and the boys at the training school; cleaning; washing; making and mending clothing and bedding for the prison and the training school; baking bread for the prison, hospital, poorhouse, lunatic and leper asylums, and training school; also in quarrying and stone-breaking, smithy work, masonry, and carpentry.

The prisoners were also employed, among other public services without the prison walls, in keeping the pauper cemetery in order, attending to the hospital grounds, improving the bed of the stream near the pumping station at Body Ponds, and cleaning out the large reservoir at Gray's Hill.

The cost of the maintenance of each prisoner to Antigua was at the rate of £21 9*s*. 3*d*.

The following table gives the total number of offences reported to the police during each of the last five years, together with the convictions and acquittals in each year:—

Year.	Offences reported.	Convicted.	Acquitted, died awaiting trial, or *nolle prosequi* entered.
1905	14,606	8,525	5,372
1906	14,227	6,699	6,726
1907	14,920	6,442	7,460
1908	14,516	6,228	7,002
1909	16,076	7,102	7,958

Of the offences reported, 3,225 were offences against the person, 764 in respect of prædial larceny, 1,198 against property (other than prædial larceny), and the remaining cases cover all other offences reported.

Summary convictions were recorded against 7,067 persons in the Magistrates' Courts, the number of convictions in the Superior Counts amounting to 33.

In the Magistrates' Courts 7,935 persons were acquitted, and in the Superior Courts, eight. A *nolle prosequi* was entered in 15 cases.

The total cost of each prison during 1909-10 was as under:—

	£
Antigua	2,098
St. Kitts	695
Dominica	1,042
Montserrat	142
Virgin Islands	101
	£4,078

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Colony, according to the Census of 1901, when only number and sexes were taken, was 127,536, distributed as follows:—

Island.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Antigua	15,558	18,620	34,178
Barbuda	303	472	775
St. Kitts	12,977	16,805	29,782
Nevis	5,605	7,169	12,774
Anguilla	1,687	2,203	3,890
Dominica	12,870	16,024	28,894
Montserrat	5,580	6,635	12,215
Redonda	118	2	120
Virgin Islands...	2,254	2,654	4,908
Total	56,952	70,584	127,536

There were 4,613 births and 3,425 deaths. Of the births, 1,745 were legitimate and 2,868, or 62 per cent., illegitimate.

Rainfall—Antigua.

The average monthly rainfall for the year 1909 was as follows—(January to August, mean of 69 stations; September to December, mean of 70 stations):—

—	Inches.	—	Inches.
January	4·12	July	2·33
February	2·23	August	6·57
March	0·73	September	3·77
April...	2·80	October	5·45
May	1·26	November	11·41
June	3·28	December	1·15

Total, 45·10 inches.

The total precipitation measured approximated closely to the average for the past 36 years, and, in distribution, was, on the whole, favourable, although the almost complete absence of rain in March and the small rainfall in September continued to administer a check to the growing sugar-crane crop.

The average rainfall for 36 years from 1874 to 1909, inclusively, was 45·31 inches, so that the rainfall for 1909 was 0·21 below the average.

Public Health, St. John's, Antigua.

The sanitary condition of the City of St. John continued to receive attention from the City Commissioners. Improvements, such as the filling up of ponds, the construction of concrete drains in several streets, and the taking of precautionary measures against the breeding of mosquitoes, were carried out efficiently.

The following statistical table relates to the cases treated by the Medical Officer of the City of St. John during the last three years:—

Year.	Patients.	Deaths.	Percentage of Deaths.	Cases of Malarial Fever.	Percentage of cases of Malarial Fever.
1907	6,021	89	1·47	254	4·21
1908	6,374	114	1·78	391	6·13
1909	4,401	137	3·11	155	3·52

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the following lines:—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (fortnightly), the East Asiatic Company (once a month), the Quebec Steamship Company (about twice a month), and the Pickford and Black Steamship Company (twice a month).

The mails are taken between St. Thomas and Tortola and between Tortola and Virgin Gorda by a sloop belonging to the Government and by private boats as follows:—

From Tortola to St. Thomas, about four times a week; and
From Tortola to Virgin Gorda, about six times a month.

There is a daily mail service by sailing-boat between St. Kitts and Nevis, and a fortnightly mail service by sailing-boat between St. Kitts and Anguilla.

Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other, the other West Indian Colonies, Europe, and America by the cables of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company. There is no communication by telegraph with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands.

Telephone services have been established in Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica.

The following statement shows the volume of the transactions of the Colony in postal matter during the last five years:—

Year.	Letters and cards received and sent.	Books and papers received and sent.	Parcels received and sent.
1905	678,099	224,427	10,247
1906	641,963	218,808	10,127
1907	606,935	216,700	11,043
1908	671,821	219,776	11,680
1909	671,471	222,440	12,280

The total value of money orders issued in the Colony was £22,005 as against £22,703 in 1909, and the total value of the orders paid was £22,995 as against £22,728 in the previous year.

The money-order transactions were distributed between the Presidencies as follows, those for St. Kitts and Nevis being shown in the case of each island:—

	Money Orders Issued.	Money Orders Paid.
	£	£
Antigua	5,326	8,421
St. Kitts	3,631	6,590
Nevis	1,526	1,012
Dominica	5,941	2,364
Montserrat	3,104	4,332
Virgin Islands ...	2,477	276
Total	£22,005	£22,995

The net profit on the working of the Post Offices of the Colony was £1,720, as against £1,162 in 1908.

The excess of revenue over expenditure in Montserrat was £1,435.

In Antigua there are 176 telephone instruments in use and 350 miles of wire; in St. Kitts, 99 instruments and 261 miles of wire; and in Dominica, 136 instruments and 410 miles of wire.

The receipts and expenditure in connection with the telephone services of the Colony during the year under review were as under:—

Presidency.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
Antigua	845	834
St. Kitts	475	622
Dominica	526	675

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

Although not happening within the period under review, it would be impossible not to refer in this report to the wave of sorrow that passed over the Colony on the demise of His Majesty King Edward VII., the calamitous intelligence of which was received on the 7th May last. Manifestations of public and private grief were universal; and messages of respectful sympathy were sent to the afflicted Royal Family.

The accession of His Majesty King George V. was proclaimed in Antigua on the 9th May, and in the other Presidencies on subsequent dates, with every demonstration of devoted loyalty.

The expenses of the General Government in 1909-10 amounted to £10,383 2*s.* 7*d.* This sum was provided from the following sources:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Imperial grants	1,040	0	0
Fees and reimbursements ...	113	14	3
Presidential contributions ...	9,229	8	4
Total	£10,383	2	7

The additional charges caused by the transfer of the salary and other emoluments of the Chief Inspector of Police from local (Antigua) to federal funds, are included in this expenditure.

The sum of £178 7*s.* 1*d.*, from the balances of Imperial grants received in previous years, was expended on Special Services.

The cost of some services, which was formerly payable from Imperial grants, is now chargeable against the funds of the General Government, with the result that an annually decreasing burden on the Imperial Government is being effected. The following statement shows the expenditure from the funds of the General Government and from Imperial grants during the last five years:—

	Federal Government.			Imperial Grants.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1905-6	8,909	19	0	1,483	17	6
1906-7	8,754	2	11	1,239	7	3
1907-8	9,315	14	5	1,424	17	8
1908-9	9,821	3	7	918	6	8
1909-10	9,518	12	10	864	9	9

Armorial Ensigns for the Colony of the Leeward Islands were granted by Royal Warrant on the 10th of April, 1909.

An event of marked importance was the arrival in the Colony on the 24th February, 1910, of the Royal Commission on Trade Relations between Canada and the West Indies, under the Chairmanship of the Right Honourable Lord Balfour of Burleigh, K.T. The Commission held sessions in Antigua, Dominica, St. Kitts, and Montserrat, and exhaustive evidence was taken at each island in respect of the subject of their inquiry.

The report of the Commission has since been issued, and the recommendations contained in it are receiving the attention of the Imperial Government and the local legislatures.

Civil Establishment.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Bickham Sweet-Escott, K.C.M.G., proceeded from Antigua on leave of absence on the 17th April, 1909, and resumed the administration of the Government of the Colony on the 25th November following.

Mr. E. St. John Branch, Colonial Secretary and Attorney-General, administered the Government during the Governor's absence, until, proceeding to Jamaica to take up the appointment of Attorney-General, on promotion, he was succeeded on the 8th October by Mr. Douglas Young, the Administrator of Dominica.

Antigua.

The revenue of Antigua for the year 1909-10 amounted to £48,583, including a sum of £800 received from the Directors of the Antigua Grammar School as the purchase money for a building and site to which pauper convalescent patients were formerly transferred from the lunatic asylum.

Excluding the sum of £800 mentioned, the revenue failed to realise the Estimates by £1,812, and was under the average of the four preceding years by £990. As compared with the revenue for 1907-8 and 1908-9, it was £3,278 below the mean of those years.

The shrinkage of revenue occurred chiefly under the heads of Customs and Port Dues, in consequence of a short sugar crop.

The expenditure of the year was estimated at £48,280, for services chargeable to local funds, and at £671 for the service of the Agricultural Department, payable from Imperial grants.

The Estimates were exceeded by the sum of £924, which included a refund to the Imperial Government of £500 on account of grants received in 1906-7.

The sum of £180 was expended in acquiring for the Presidency the Law Library, hitherto maintained in the Court House by Federal funds; and the police station at Bolans was purchased at a cost of £150.

The total cost of maintaining the charitable institutions in Antigua during the last five years was as follows:—

Institution.	1905–6.	1906–7.	1907–8.	1908–9.	1909–10.
	£	£	£	£	£
Hospital and Poor-House ...	4,771	4,463	4,516	4,541	4,393
Board of Guardians of the Poor	522	485	577	592	640
Lunatic Asylum	1,649	1,680	1,674	2,017	2,017
Leper Asylum	510	550	555	548	543
Total	7,452	7,178	7,322	7,698	7,593

Reimbursements by paying patients at the hospital and contributions from the other Presidencies for the maintenance of lunatics sent to the lunatic asylum were as follows:—

—	1905–6.	1906–7.	1907–8.	1908–9.	1909–10.
	£	£	£	£	£
Hospital fees	48	63	94	149	120
Maintenance of lunatics ...	1,249	1,363	1,187	1,306	1,327

The net annual cost to Antigua, therefore, of maintaining the two institutions is shown below:—

—	1905–6.	1906–7.	1907–8.	1908–9.	1909–10.
	£	£	£	£	£
Hospital and Poor House ...	4,723	4,400	4,422	4,392	4,273
Lunatic asylum	400	317	487	711	690

In the case of the hospital and the poor-house, it will be observed that the decrease in expenditure between the last and first years of the quinquennial period was £451, the daily average of inmates for 1909 having been 191, as against 293 in 1905.

As compared with the large reduction in the number of inmates, the decrease in expenditure was small, owing to a considerable advance in the contract prices of foodstuffs.

With regard to the lunatic asylum, the number of inmates was slightly higher in 1909 than in 1905, but the increase in the cost of maintenance of the Institution during the last two years was the result mainly of the higher prices to be paid for supplies, the incurring of expenditure in 1908-9 in obtaining a complete set of patent cell locks, and, in 1909-10, on sundry services.

In January, 1910, a party of representative planters, and others interested in the sugar industry in Barbados (organised by the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, Dr. F. Watts, C.M.G.), arrived in Antigua, for the purpose of inspecting the Central Factories at Gunthorpes and Bendals, the methods of implemental tillage (which had been newly introduced into the island), and the process of manufacturing muscovado sugar in steam-heated pans. The object of their mission was to be informed also, as much as possible, of the general condition of agriculture in the Presidency.

Advantage was taken of this visit to hold a Conference, comprised of the visitors from Barbados and delegates from the Agricultural and Commercial Societies of Antigua and St. Kitts, at which topics of agricultural and commercial interest were discussed. Among the matters which engaged the attention of the Conference were Reciprocal Trade Relations between the West Indies and Canada, the result of the working of the Central Sugar Factory at Gunthorpes, the manufacture of muscovado sugar by steam boiling, implemental cultivation, systems of agricultural education in the West Indies, and the introduction of birds.

It has been felt that the visit of the representatives from Barbados, which was unofficial in character, has been productive of much good. It afforded an opportunity for the free discussion of interests affecting, equally, Barbados, Antigua, and St. Kitts, and for the interchange of views generally on matters of common interest.

January 3rd, 1910, marks an epoch in the history of the Grammar School in Antigua. On that day, the school was formally installed in the building purchased from the Government. The Right Reverend Bishop Mather, the late Bishop of the Diocese, performed the dedication ceremony. The building was declared to be open for use as a grammar school by the Governor. In his speech, on the occasion, His Excellency reviewed the strange vicissitudes of fortune through which the building had passed since the days in the 18th century, when the greater part of it was erected as quarters for the officers in command of the Imperial troops stationed in Antigua. It became, subsequently, a poor-house, and later an abode for pauper convalescent patients transferred from the lunatic asylum.

The new school is a commodious, two-storied building, which serves also as a residence for the Head Master, and has dormitory accommodation for 14 boys. Spacious galleries—so necessary for the comfort of any dwelling-place on which beats a tropical sun—are a feature of the structure. Several acres of playground are attached to the school.

The Antigua Grammar School was re-founded by the present Head Master, the Venerable Archdeacon S. E. Branch, M.A., 26 years ago. The value of the work accomplished by it during that time as an educational centre cannot be over-estimated.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure of the Public Works Department was £4,825, as against £5,237 in 1908-9.

The roads and bridges, on which a sum of £2,475 was spent, were maintained in fair condition, and many were improved. Open drains and crossings continued to receive attention.

Necessary repairs to Walling's Reservoir, the channels collecting and conveying water to it, the pipe tracks and waste weir, received attention during the year under review.

From this reservoir flows the water that supplies 30 tanks, of 500 gallons capacity each, in 15 villages. The tanks are distributed among the villages as follows:—

Mill Hill, 1; Sweets, 6; Buckleys, 2; Aberdeen, 1; Potters, 2; Piggotts, 1; Osbornes, 1; St. Marks, 1; Winthorpes, 2; Barnes Hill, 1; Gunthorpe's Estate, 1; All Saints, 3; Freemanville, 3; Sea View Farm, 3; and Pares, 2.

The Holberton Hospital, the Central Lunatic Asylum, and, to a limited extent, Gunthorpe's Sugar Factory, are also supplied with water from this reservoir.

Wallings is situated in the Parish of St. Mary, about 7½ miles from St. John's. That part of the island is intersected by ranges of hills varying in altitude from 1,100 to 1,300 feet. In a spot favourable for utilising a part of this watershed, a powerful dam was thrown across a cul-de-sac, and the reservoir, estimated to hold 13,000,000 gallons of water, was constructed within the enclosed area. The bed of the reservoir is lined with a thin layer of concrete, whilst rough-stone pitching or concreting is used in the construction of the sides.

Wallings is one of the most picturesque spots in Antigua, From the adjacent hills, covered with eternal verdure, the reservoir might easily be mistaken for a placid lake. It is, however, purely artificial. There are no perennial streams flowing into it. The rate at which its supply of water is replenished is fitful, and depends entirely on the rainfall. The daily average has been estimated at 60,000 gallons. There may be little or no inflow for weeks together, but then come heavy rains and the water rushes wildly into the reservoir through the channels leading to it, constructed on the sloping sides of the watershed.

The area of the gathering-ground is estimated at 130 acres. During the ten years since the reservoir was completed there has been no deficiency in the supply of water.

The overflow is carried off by a substantially built weir of stone and concrete.

The construction of the reservoir was begun in 1890, but was discontinued in 1896, apparently owing to lack of funds. The work was resumed in 1900 and completed in 1905. The expenditure up to May, 1896, was £24,238. The total cost amounted to £44,112.

BARBUDA.

The revenue of Barbuda for 1909-10 was £1,722, and the expenditure, £1,393.

The cotton crop in Barbuda, during the year under review, was fairly good. The weather conditions were favourable and the insect pests few. An area of 100 acres was under cultivation, producing 146 bales of 120 lb. each. The price realised on 120 bales was at the rate of 1*s.* 8*d.* per lb. An additional area of 25 acres is under cultivation during the present year.

The breeding of horses, cattle, and mules by the Government continues to produce satisfactory results. Mules, especially, thrive well. The freedom with which they can rove over a wide extent of country and the natural conditions of the island appear to be suitable to them.

The breed of horses has improved since the importation of two thoroughbred stallions from Jamaica and one from St. Kitts a few years ago.

Cattle flourish, more particularly the pure and half-bred Mysore.

Although a number of natives, chiefly young women, continue to emigrate to the United States, the labour supply has not yet been affected.

The sanitary conditions of the village and its surroundings have been improved.

Excellent tarpon and other sea fishing may be had; also good shooting. Deer abound, and wild pig, guinea fowl, pigeon, and duck are plentiful. The seasons are from 1st January to 31st March, and 1st July to 30th September.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.*

The revenue for the year was somewhat disappointing. Omitting the Imperial grant for Agricultural Services, the original Estimate was £48,528, but only £47,342, or £1,186 less than anticipated, was collected. The receipts, however, were £210 more than in the preceding year.

The expenditure, estimated at £47,459, amounted to £47,932, or £590 more than the actual revenue. It should be explained, however, that the expenditure includes £800 spent on the erection of the new Government House at Nevis, the total cost of which, estimated at £1,300, was voted as a charge against the surplus funds. If, therefore, this sum of £800 be deducted, the amount chargeable against the year's revenue will be reduced to £47,132, or £210 less than the receipts.

From the foregoing figures it will be seen that the surplus funds of the Presidency were necessarily reduced as a result of the year's transactions. At 31st March, 1909, they stood at £17,080, while at the same date in 1910, they were £16,490.

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* **By his Honour T. Laurence Roxburgh, Esq., C.M.G., Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis.**

This surplus has been built up during the past six years by rigid economy. It is desired to raise it gradually to £20,000. There are increased annually recurrent charges about to fall on the revenue shortly, such, for instance, as the cost of Agricultural Services, hitherto borne by the Imperial Government, and the cost of improved communication between St. Kitts and Nevis, which is about to be established at a cost of £300 a year. It cannot be hoped, therefore, that the surplus funds will continue to grow as they have done recently. So long, however, as the revenue is sufficient to meet the cost of the annual services and there is a surplus of £20,000, there need be no anxiety in regard to the finances of the Presidency.

The value of imports in 1909 was £174,220, being nearly £12,000 less than in 1908. Of this large difference, the lessened importations from foreign countries are principally responsible. In 1908 the Presidency imported goods from foreign countries to the value of £90,094, whereas in 1909 the value was only £83,442. The decrease in the imports from the United Kingdom was £2,472, and from British Colonies (principally Canada, of course) £2,939.

The value of exports, which in 1908 was £188,770, was £182,446 in 1909. This is accounted for by a small crop of cotton and a smaller manufacture of rum, the decrease in these two articles more than counterbalancing a somewhat better export of sugar and molasses. A somewhat remarkable feature of the sugar export is the increase in the amount sent to the United Kingdom. In 1908, sugar to the value of only £1,714 was sent to Great Britain, whereas in 1909 the value was £8,577. The great bulk of sugar manufactured here goes, of course, to Canada.

It is impossible to look through the list of exports without being struck with the necessity for increasing their number. Practically, sugar and cotton constitute the exports of the Presidency. This is certainly better than having nothing but sugar, and the cultivation of cotton has proved an immense blessing to the Presidency, especially to the island of Anguilla, which it has rescued from the most abject poverty. It is improbable that another product will be found so suitable to the soil here, and so beneficial to the general community, as cotton has proved; but if these islands are to be placed on a sound footing and to be less subject to the market demand in respect of one or two articles, the variety of their products must be increased. The cultivation of limes, cacao, tobacco, and other crops must be pushed, and it is satisfactory to observe that a few persons, stimulated by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, are beginning to recognise this, and to plant other things as well as cane and cotton.

Weather conditions during the past year were excellent; the rainfall was not only sufficient in quantity but well distributed, and the result was seen in the promise of good crops in 1910.

The energies of the Public Works Department were directed towards the maintenance of the roads and buildings and the thorough repair of some of the latter, rather than to any extensive new works. A new Government House in Nevis was begun, however, to replace Queen's House now used as a hospital. Thorough repairs were effected to the Pogson Hospital buildings at Sandy Point; a handsome public clock was erected in the town of Charlestown, Nevis, where also a sea wall, for the protection of a part of the town, was constructed, and a sea wall built at Old Road, St. Kitts. Commodious stabling was built at Government House, Springfield, there being no accommodation of the kind there hitherto.

The piers in the Presidency, of which there are no less than seven, are a source of constant and increasing expense. During the past year it became necessary to import, at a very considerable cost, greenheart piles for one of the piers at Basseterre, and the renewal of almost all these structures will shortly have to be faced.

During the year a great step in advance was taken towards the efficient administration of affairs in Anguilla. Hitherto the island had been under the care of a medical-magistrate, who could deal satisfactorily in his magisterial capacity with the simplest cases only, or under the care of a legally trained magistrate who could not deal with cases of sickness at all. There is now, however, a medical-magistrate who attends the sick and deals generally with the public affairs of the island, while a barrister, designated "Additional Magistrate and Deputy Judge of the Court of Summary Jurisdiction for Anguilla," visits the island quarterly to deal with the more important cases in Court which require a knowledge of law for their satisfactory disposal.

The health of the Presidency during the year was good, and there were no cases of infectious disease of a quarantinable character. As the medical officers declare that the excessive infantile mortality is largely due to the ignorance and dirty habits of those who now attend the mothers of the labouring classes at the birth of their children, an effort is being made gradually to have trained at the Holberton Hospital, Antigua, a number of women to serve as midwives in the several districts of this Presidency. It will, of course, be some time before the ignorant and untrained can be replaced by the trained and certificated nurses.

The people of the Presidency continue to be law-abiding, and serious crime is infrequent.

DOMINICA.

During the year under review, the prosperity of Dominica, which had been steadily growing for many years past, was maintained. The ordinary revenue for 1909-10, although less by £1,563 than that of 1908-9, was greater than the average of the previous four years by £2,960. The assets exceeded the liabilities by £15,361, as against an excess in 1904-5 of £5,245.

The surplus balance at the beginning of the financial year 1909-10 was £17,700. Its reduction during the year was caused by expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary.

A remarkable development of the lime industry is taking place in connection with the manufacture of citrate of lime. This branch of the industry was undertaken by the Bath Estate about four years ago, and at present is carried on by that Estate alone, which places within the reach of many a local market for the disposal of limes and lime-juice, illustrating the value of the central factory system. It is hoped that the lead which has been given will be followed by proprietors on other convenient centres of the island. Last year 3,447 cwt. of citrate of lime were exported, valued at £11,203.

The quantity of cacao exported was greater than that of the previous year, but prices ruled lower.

It is considered that the lands of Dominica are well suited for the cultivation of rubber, and efforts are being made to stimulate activity in this direction. During the year, several thousand seeds and plants were distributed by the Botanical Department.

The lime industry is undoubtedly the principal industry of Dominica in the present day, and, as far as can be foreseen, is likely to continue to be so for many years to come, but, judging from reports from elsewhere, it is possible that the industry will, in a few years' time, be brought into competition with similar industries now developing in other countries.

Considerable progress was made in carrying out works of public utility.

The ferro-concrete bridge over the Woodford Hill River was opened for traffic in July, 1909. A bridge of similar construction over the Mantipo River was also completed later; and Hodge's River, in the northern district of the island, was spanned by a bridge of the same kind.

Three large iron-girder bridges were imported for the Rosalie, Hampstead, and Geneva Rivers.

The negotiations, which had been in progress for some time prior to the 31st of March, 1910, with the object of forming a company to develop a large area of Crown land in the northern and central part of the island, were brought to a successful issue. The Company was duly incorporated under the name of the "Dominica Forests, Limited," and an Agreement entered into with the Government under which an area of 12,500 acres of land was reserved for a term of years, to be taken up progressively and occupied beneficially by the Company on payment at the rate of 10*s*. an acre. Considerable activity has already been displayed in carrying out the objects of this undertaking.

MONTSERRAT.*

This Presidency may again be congratulated on the satisfactory condition of its finances.

The excess of revenue over expenditure in 1909-10 amounted to £2,805, or £167 more than was estimated. As the year opened with a surplus balance of £6,852, the excess of assets over liabilities on 31st March, 1910, was £9,657.

The revenue (exclusive of the Imperial grant-in-aid of the Botanical Department) was £10,612. Although £338 short of the revenue of the previous year, it showed a net increase of £299 over the Estimates, and was the second largest revenue in the history of the Presidency.

---

* Information furnished by his Honour Dr. M. P. Duke, Acting Commissioner of Montserrat.

The expenditure (exclusive of the amount spent from Imperial funds on the Botanical Department) was £7,807, being £1,489 less than that in 1908-9. It included a sum of £250 for the salary of the magistrate and a grant of £150 to the Montserrat High School. The appointment of a magistrate, by relieving the Commissioner of the performance of judicial duties, has effected a very desirable change.

The import duties fell short of the amounts estimated, which were £4,500 and £2,100, respectively. The actual revenue from the former was only £3,844, the decrease of £656 being due in some degree to the reaping of a good crop of vegetables, which checked the importation of foodstuffs. The receipts from import duties (alcoholic) were £1,910, and the apparent shortage of £190 may be considered as over-estimated. The decrease in the importation of foodstuffs is to be regarded with satisfaction, as showing that the peasants have realised that it is to their advantage to cultivate part of their holdings in ground provisions, thus getting their food cheaply, rather than to plant cotton only and be forced to buy expensive food.

The receipts from export duties were £971, only £29 less than estimated, and larger than the receipts recorded for any previous year.

Other sources of revenue, with few exceptions, were in excess of the Estimates. Road Tax receipts amounted to £217, and were in excess of the receipts in 1908-9. The sale of postage and revenue stamps, which is subject to great fluctuations, realised £1,619—an unprecedented sum—arising from the demand for the issue of stamps in the new colour scheme.

The value of the trade of the Presidency for the year 1909 was £62,912, the imports being valued at £31,343 and the exports at £31,569.

The public buildings were, during the year under review, maintained in thorough order, and, in some cases, slight alterations and additions were effected. A handsome iron bridge over Fort Ghaut was completed at the small cost of £226, and has proved a great boon to persons residing in the southern part of Plymouth.

The year 1909 was decidedly favourable for agriculture. Although it is estimated that the area planted in cotton was only 1,550 acres, as compared with 2,250 acres in 1908, the yield of lint for the 1909-10 crop amounted to 235,021 lbs., exceeding that of the previous crop by 10,310 lbs. As a result of the good yield, together with the handsome prices obtained (in some cases 1*s.* 10*d.* per pound), the planters, especially the peasant cultivators, have received considerable encouragement, and the industry may be said to have entirely recovered from the severe set-back it experienced in 1908-9.

There is no marked progress to be reported in connection with the lime cultivation. While there was a decrease, as compared with the previous year, in the exportation of concentrated juice, there was an equivalent increase in the exports of raw juice. The export of citrate of lime fell from 1,296 cwt. in 1908 to 339 cwt. in 1909. This industry suffered severely in the past two years from the attacks of insect pests.

The health conditions were, as usual, satisfactory. The rainfall for the year amounted to 71·84 inches, being 15·45 inches in excess of the average for the previous nine years. Most of it fell in the last five months, doing considerable damage to the roads, but, apparently, not injuring the crops in any way.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

*Finance, Trade, &c.**

The general prosperity of these islands was well maintained during the year under review.

The rainfall was exceptional, being 70·64 inches, or 16·15 inches above the average for the last nine years, which, coupled with high winds, did considerable damage to growing crops.

The year's transactions, exclusive of grants-in-aid of the Agricultural Department, but including expenditure on, and receipts from, the cotton and lime industries, show an excess of revenue over expenditure of £507 16*s*. 5½*d*., as detailed below, to which, however, must be added the sums of £1,310 16*s*. 8*d*. and £86 7*s*. 8*d*., being respectively the estimated value of cotton, cotton seed, and lime-juice on hand at the close of the year.

	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	*s*.	*d*.	£	*s*.	*d*.
Ordinary	2,368	0	10½	2,333	15	6
Cotton industry	1,823	13	10	1,251	16	10
Limes	—			101	5	11
Land sales	3	0	0	—		
	4,194	14	8½	3,686	18	3
Imperial grant-in-aid of agriculture	550	0	0	608	14	10
	£4,744	14	8½	£4,295	13	1

There were no receipts from the lime industry, as the concentrated juice was not shipped early enough for account sales to be received before the close of the year. The crop was 8 hhds., or about 2½ times as large as that of the previous year, and actually realised £86 7*s*. 8*d*.

The imports and exports showed a decline in value of £70 10*s*. 5*d*. and £23 10*s*. 6*d*., respectively, on those of the previous year. The former decrease was partly owing to the low prices obtainable for cotton, with the result that the purchasing power of the people was reduced, and partly on account of reduced imports of foodstuffs, owing to ground provisions being more plentiful. The reduction in exports was due to less attention being paid to pastoral pursuits and more attention being paid to agriculture, but, if the exports of cotton from the Government factory, valued at £1,823 13*s*. 10*d*., be added, the apparent deficit disappears, and a considerable increase is shown.

*** From notes supplied by his Honour Leslie Jarvis, Esq., Commissioner of the Virgin Islands.**

During the year an important change was made in the civil establishments of the Presidency. The offices of Commissioner and Medical Officer, which were amalgamated in 1896, were separated, a Commissioner and Medical Officer were appointed, and the office of Clerk to the Commissioner was abolished.

The health of the islands, as usual, was excellent. The growth of prosperity in the Virgin Islands, and the improvement in the conditions of life among the inhabitants are noticeable from the disappearance of the thatched cottage and the erection in its place of one with a shingled or galvanized roof.

The local shopkeepers greatly improved their stock in trade during the year under review, the effect of which has been, slowly, but surely, to reduce the trade carried on by small boats between these islands and the Danish island of St. Thomas. Road Town, in consequence, is gradually taking its proper place as the commercial centre of the Virgin Islands. The promotion of this desirable object would be further accelerated by direct steam communication.

Educational grants amounted to £201 19*s.* 6*d.*, being an increase of £26 1*s.* over those of the previous year. The Inspector of Schools expressed himself on his last visit as being greatly pleased with the general advancement that education was making in the Presidency.

Negotiations were initiated during the year for the purpose of obtaining from the Government a concession for re-opening and working the molybdenum mines in Virgin Gorda.

Towards the close of the year, Spanish drawn thread and lace industries were started, which afford remunerative occupation for women and girls unsuited for agricultural pursuits, and promise, at no distant date, to become of considerable importance.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.*

From various causes the cotton industry received its first check during the year under review.

Low prices in England, and consequent low prices locally, during the crop season of 1908-9, undoubtedly had considerable bearing on the reduction of the area planted. People like the inhabitants of the Virgin Islands do not understand market fluctuations, nor can they see sufficiently far ahead to realise that it is a mistake to abandon a crop on account of a single season's low prices.

The weather during November and December was very unfavourable for cotton, which was ripening about that time. A drought set in in February, which had the effect of reducing the second crop.

Leaf-blister mite was very prevalent, and doubtless had an adverse effect on the crop. The unwise habit of leaving old cotton bushes on the land greatly aggravates this evil.

A leaflet entitled "Hints to Cotton Growers in the Virgin Islands" was prepared and distributed in quantity. This contained information put in plain, homely language, calculated to be of service to peasant growers.

---

* Information furnished by W. C. Fishlock, Esq., Agricultural Instructor.

It is a fortunate circumstance that, so far, the Virgin Islands have escaped serious visitation by the cotton worm. Such an attack would be disastrous.

From St. Kitts 3,000 lbs. of selected seed were imported, and most of it sold at 2*d*. per lb.

In consequence of the existence of large numbers of cotton plants of an inferior type, advice has always been given against the use of local seed for planting, and the use of imported seed, for this purpose, continues to be recommended.

The Department continued to buy limes from the peasantry, the total amount thus purchased being about 625 barrels as against 252 barrels the previous year.

The station is well equipped for dealing with the lime crop. The limes are crushed in a hand-power cider mill, and the juice is concentrated in the sugar kettles.

Eight casks of concentrated juice were shipped to London. The juice tested 87 ozs. citric acid to the gallon, and was sold for £86 7*s*. 8*d*.

The advantages of a lime industry have been kept before the people, and, doubtless, with a ready-money market for the limes, interest in the industry will be stimulated. Steady effort, however, is required to convince them of its profitable character.

The small sugar industry carried on at the station was kept alive, and in April of the present year a small steam-power mill was erected.

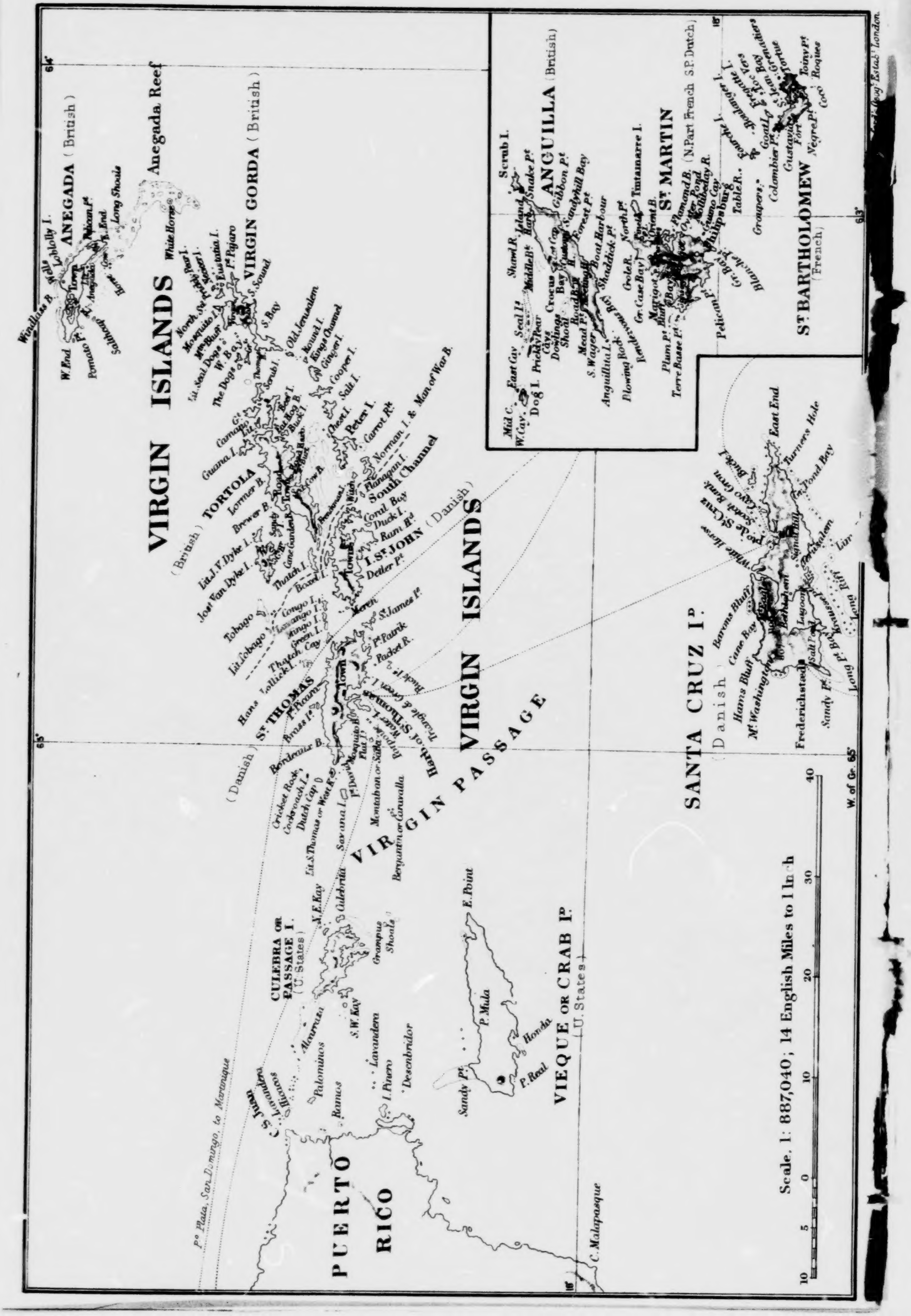
Canes were received and crushed, the growers receiving 4 lbs. sugar per 100 lbs. cane, as it was estimated that, with the apparatus at the station, 100 lbs. of cane of normal sweetness would yield 6 lbs. of sugar.

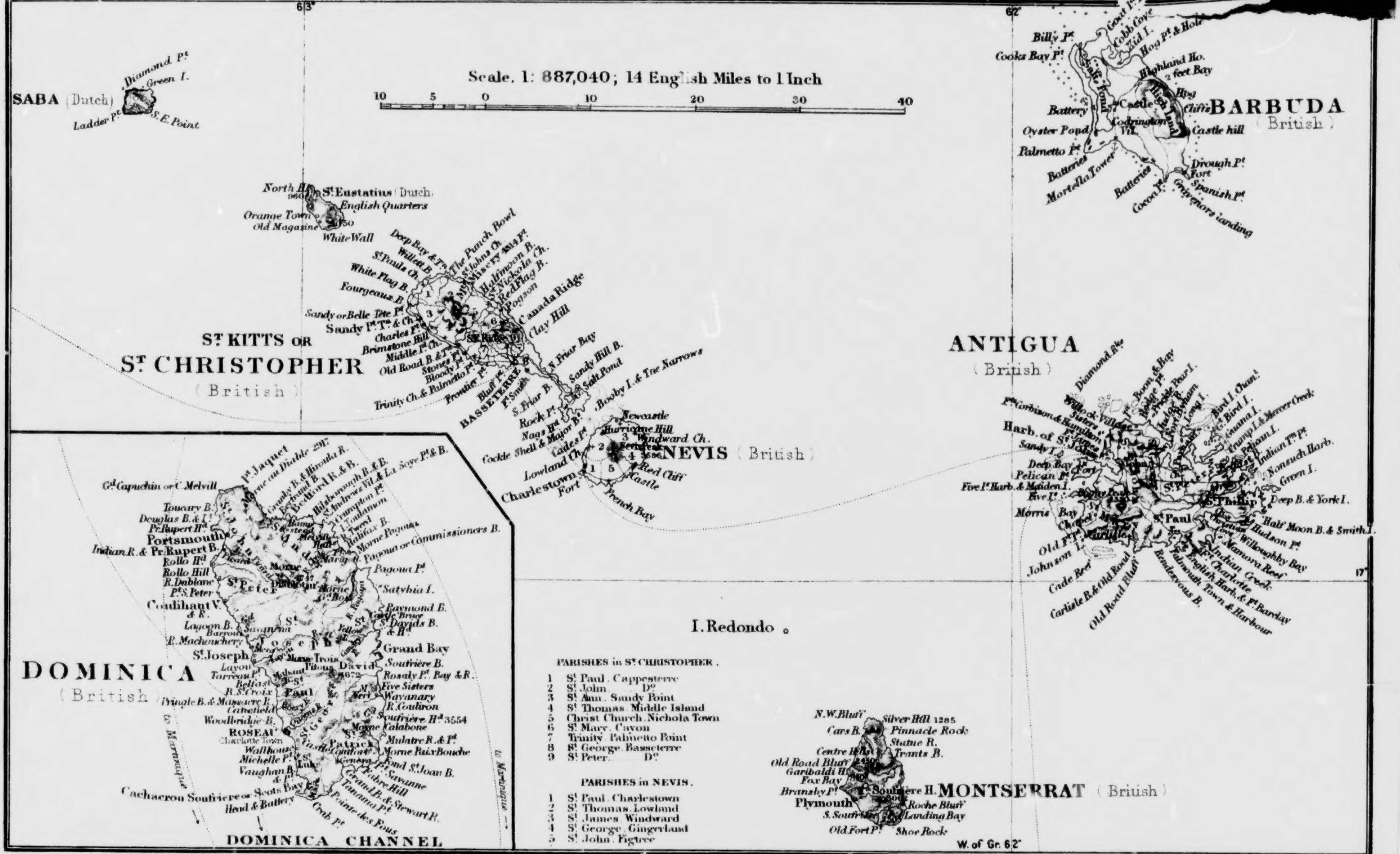
The total weight of cane dealt with was 86 tons 10 cwts. Of this 33 tons 10 cwts. was grown on the station, and 53 tons brought in by small holders.

It is hoped that the new arrangements will have the effect of stimulating interest in this industry. There is no reason why all the muscovado sugar required for local consumption should not be produced locally.

H. E. W. Grant,
Colonial Secretary,
Leeward Islands.

Antigua,
20th December, 1910.


VIRGIN ISLANDS (British)
VIRGIN ISLANDS (Danish)
ANEGADA (British)
Anegada Reef
VIRGIN GORDA (British)
TORTOLA
Jost Van Dyke I.
St. THOMAS
I. St. JOHN
South Channel
Peter I.
Norman I.
Salt I.
Cooper I.
Ginger I.
Tobago
Lit. Tobago
Hans Lollick I.
Thatch Cay
Brass Is.
Bordeaux B.
Buck I.
Savana I.
Sail Rock
VIRGIN PASSAGE
CULEBRA OR PASSAGE I. (U. States)
N.E. Kay
S.W. Kay
Grampus Shoals
Culebrita
Palominos
Ramos
Lavandera
I. Pinero
Desembridor
VIEQUE OR CRAB Io. (U. States)
E. Point
P. Mula
Honda
P. Real
Sandy Pt.
PUERTO RICO
C. Malapasque
C. S. Juan
Po. Plata, San Domingo, to Martinique
SANTA CRUZ Io. (Danish)
East End
Turners Hole
Pond Bay
Sandy Pt.
Frederichsted
Christiansted
Hams Bluff
Mt. Washington
Cane Bay
Barons Bluff
Salt Pt.
Long Pt.
Long Reef
Lagoon
White Horse
Buck I.
ANGUILLA (British)
Scrub I.
Dog I.
Sombrero
Sandy Hill Bay
Road Bay
Crocus Bay
Anguillita I.
Rendezvous Bay
St. MARTIN (N. Part French. S.P. Dutch)
Tintamarre I.
Philipsburg
Marigot
Simpson Bay
Terre Basse
Oyster Pond
Guana Bay
Plum Pt.
St. BARTHOLOMEW (French)
Gustavia
Fort
Colombier Pt.
Toiny Pt.
Negre Pt.
Table R.
Fourchue I.
64°
65°
63°
18°
W. of Gr. 65°
Scale, 1: 887,040; 14 English Miles to 1 Inch
10 5 0 10 20 30 40
Geog. Estab. London.


Scale. 1: 887,040; 14 English Miles to 1 Inch
10 5 0 10 20 30 40
SABA (Dutch)
Diamond Pt.
Green I.
Ladder Pt.
S.E. Point
St. Eustatius (Dutch)
North H.
English Quarters
Orange Town
Old Magazine
White Wall
St. KITTS OR
St. CHRISTOPHER
(British)
BASSETERRE
Sandy Pt. Tn. & Ch.
Brimstone Hill
Old Road B. & Tn.
Canada Ridge
Clay Hill
The Narrows
Booby I.
NEVIS (British)
Newcastle
Hurricane Hill
Windward Ch.
Red Cliff
Castle
French Bay
Charlestown
Fort
ANTIGUA
(British)
Diamond Rk.
Harb. of St. Johns
Deep Bay
Pelican Pt.
Five Is. Harb. & Maiden I.
Morris Bay
Old Fort
Johnson I.
Cade Reef
Carlisle B. & Old Road
Old Road Bluff
Rendezvous B.
Falmouth Town & Harbour
English Harb. & Ft. Barclay
St. Paul
St. Philip
Indian Creek
Mamora Reef
Willoughby Bay
Half Moon B. & Smith I.
Deep B. & York I.
Green I.
Nonsuch Harb.
BARBUDA
(British)
Billy Pt.
Cooks Bay Pt.
Salt Pond
Castle
Codrington Vil.
High Land
Castle hill
Battery
Oyster Pond
Palmetto Pt.
Martello Tower
Batteries
Cocoa Pt.
Drough Pt.
Spanish Pt.
Highland Ho.
2 feet Bay
Hog Pt. & Hole
I. Redondo
MONTSERRAT (British)
N.W. Bluff
Silver Hill 1285
Pinnacle Rock
Cars B.
Statue R.
Trants B.
Centre Hills
Old Road Bluff
Garibaldi H.
Fox Bay
Bransby Pt.
Plymouth
Soufrière H.
Roche Bluff
S. Soufrière
Landing Bay
Old Fort Pt.
Shoe Rock
W. of Gr. 62°
63°
62°
17°
DOMINICA
(British)
Gd. Capuchin or C. Melvill
Portsmouth
Indian R. & Pr. Rupert B.
Rollo Hill
Coulihaut V.
St. Joseph
Layou
Belfast
Woodbridge B.
ROSEAU
Charlotte Town
Grand Bay
Soufrière B.
Rosaly Pt. Bay & R.
Five Sisters
Soufrière Hd. 3554
Morne Paix Bouche
Pointe des Fous
Crab Pt.
Cachacrou Soufrière or Scots Bay
Head & Battery
to Martinique
DOMINICA CHANNEL
PARISHES in St. CHRISTOPHER.
1 St. Paul. Cappesterre
2 St. John. Do.
3 St. Ann. Sandy Point
4 St. Thomas. Middle Island
5 Christ Church. Nichola Town
6 St. Mary. Cayon
7 Trinity. Palmetto Point
8 St. George. Basseterre
9 St. Peter. Do.
PARISHES in NEVIS.
1 St. Paul. Charlestown
2 St. Thomas. Lowland
3 St. James. Windward
4 St. George. Gingerland
5 St. John. Figtree

Stanford's Geog¹ Estab^t London.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
633	Northern Nigeria	1908–1909
634	Basutoland	,,
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637	Weihaiwei	1909
638	St. Helena	,,
639	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
640	Ashanti	,,
641	Gambia	,,
642	Malta	1909–1910
643	Seychelles	1909
644	Colonial Survey Committee	1909–1910
645	Falkland Islands	,,
646	Turks and Caicos Islands	1909
647	Gibraltar	,,
648	Sierra Leone	,,
649	Somaliland	1909–1910
650	Bahamas	,,
651	Tongan Islands Protectorate	,,
652	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
653	Ceylon	1909
654	Gold Coast	,,
655	Nyasaland	1909–1910
656	Imperial Institute	1909
657	Fiji	,,
658	Grenada	,,
659	Hong Kong	,,
660	Barbados	1909–1910
661	Swaziland	1909
662	Jamaica	,,
663	Straits Settlements	,,
664	Trinidad and Tobago	1909–1910
665	Southern Nigeria	1909
666	Mauritius	,,
667	British Honduras	,,
668	St. Vincent	1909–1910
669	East Africa Protectorate	,,
670	Uganda	,,
671	British Guiana	,,
672	St. Lucia	1909

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
66	Gold Coast	Forests.
67	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1905–1906.
68	Do. do.	Do. 1906–1907.
69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Surveys, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.

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1911.

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No. 711.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1910-11.

(For Report for 1909-10, *see* No. 673.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
March, 1912.

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No. 711.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1909-10, *see* No. 673.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Antigua,
12th January, 1912.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward a report by Mr. Edward B. Jarvis, the Acting Colonial Secretary, on the Blue Book of the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1910-11.

I have, &c.,
H. E. W. GRANT,
Acting Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1910-1911.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies composing the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1911 (exclusive of grants-in-aid of the Agricultural Department from the Imperial Government, amounting to £2,911), was £164,375, showing an increase of £14,705 in comparison with the revenue for the year 1909-10.

2. The following table shows the amount of revenue collected in each Presidency (exclusive of Imperial grants-in-aid of the Agricultural Department) during the last five years, as also the increase or decrease as compared with 1909-10:—

Presidency.	1906-7.	1907-8.	1908-9.	1909-10.	1910-11.	Increase 1910-11 over 1909-10.	Decrease 1910-11 under 1909-10.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	44,175	50,620	51,502	48,583	52,326	3,743	—
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	49,613	49,336	47,133	47,343	52,748	5,405	—
Dominica	33,209	38,999	40,500	38,937	41,473	2,536	—
Montserrat ...	8,732	10,232	10,950	10,612	12,262	1,650	—
Virgin Islands ...	2,425	3,421	4,248	4,195	5,566	1,371	—
Total ...	138,154	152,608	154,333	149,670	164,375	14,705	—

3. The Imperial grants-in-aid of the Agricultural Department were as follow:—

	£
Antigua	721
St. Kitts-Nevis	580
Dominica	660
Montserrat	425
Virgin Islands	525
Total	£2,911

4. The following is a return showing the number of licences issued in the Leeward Islands in 1910 for the sale of intoxicating liquors and the revenue derived therefrom:—

Presidency.	No. of Licences.	Revenue. £	s.	d.
Antigua	21	756	0	0
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	48	1,730	0	0
Dominica	109	1,181	0	0
Montserrat	45	189	7	6
Virgin Islands ...	12	26	15	8

5. The aggregate expenditure for the year 1910-11 (exclusive of that in respect of the Agricultural Department from Imperial grants-in-aid) was £159,263, as against £149,906 for the year 1909-10, showing an increase of £9,357.

6. The expenditure of each Presidency during the last five years is shown in the following table, as is also the increase or decrease as compared with 1909-10:—

Presidency.		1906-7.	1907-8.	1908-9.	1909-10.	1910-11.	Increase 1910-11 over 1909-10.	Decrease 1910-11 under 1909-10.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ...	...	45 207	46,968	49,964‡	49,204§	53,495	4,291	—
St. Kitts-Nevis	...	46,067*	46,121	45,722	47,932	49,872	1,940	—
Dominica ...	...	30,114	30,620	36,541	41,276	39,050	—	2,226
Montserrat	...	6,578	8,016	9,296	7,807‖	11,366	3,559	—
Virgin Islands	...	2,032	3,823†	4,693	3,687	5,480	1,793	—
Total	...	129,998	135,548	146,216	149,906	159,263	11,583	2,226

* Included £2,900 repayment of loans.
† Included £1,772 expended on the cotton industry.
‡ Included £1,542 repayment of loans.
§ Included £500 repayment of loans.
‖ Included £500 repayment of loans.

Note.—Antigua received in 1906-7 £3,542 3*s.* 9*d.* Imperial Grant-in-aid of revenue in excess of requirements, of which the sum of £2,042 3*s.* 9*d.* has been repaid.

7. The expenditure from Imperial funds on the Agricultural Department was as follows:—

	£
Antigua	658
St. Kitts-Nevis	578
Dominica	553
Montserrat	337
Virgin Islands	484
Total	£2,610

8. The surplus of assets over liabilities on the 31st March, 1911, amounted to £54,845, which was made up as follows:—

	£	
Antigua ...	6,941	(exclusive of a floating liability of £1,500 due to the Imperial Treasury for excess of grants made in 1907).
St. Kitts-Nevis	19,367	
Dominica ...	17,784	
Montserrat ...	10,554	
Virgin Islands	199	(exclusive of the sum of £1,907 18*s.* 4*d.*, which represents the estimated value of cotton and cotton seed remaining unsold on the 31st March, 1911).

The assets and liabilities of the Colony on the 31st March, 1911, as compared with the assets and liabilities on the 31st March, 1910, are shown below:—

	1909-10.	1910-11.
	£	£
Assets	73,053	66,228
Liabilities	23,320	11,383
Surplus of Assets ...	£49,733	£54,845

The surplus of assets for the Island of Barbuda amounted to £1,363 11*s*. 9*d*.

9. The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounts to £273,250. During the year it was reduced by £200, repayment by Antigua on account of the St. John's Savings Bank Loan.

The following table shows the amount of the loans raised and the sums standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds at the 31st March, 1911:—

Presidency.	Total amount of loans raised.	Amount to credit of Sinking Fund.
	£	£
Antigua	130,100	43,229
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	67,250	17,156
Dominica	65,000	17,705
Montserrat	11,100	2,598
	£273,450	£80,688
Less amount repaid ...	200	—
Total	£273,250	£80,688

MUNICIPALITIES.

10. The Government of the City of Saint John, Antigua, is vested in five Commissioners, under the control of the Governor in Executive Council. Two of the Commissioners must be persons not holding any office of emolument under the Crown.

There are also Town Boards in Basseterre, St. Kitts, and Roseau, Dominica.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

11. The total value of imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1910, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £541,713, as against £471,026 in 1909, being an increase of £70,687.

12. The total value of the exports, exclusive of internal trade, was £537,832, as against £420,800 in 1909, showing an increase of £117,032.

13. The following tables exhibit the value of the imports and exports during the last five years, exclusive of internal trade:—

Imports.

Year.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Mont-serrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1906	125,754	157,705	100,866	16,514	6,412	407,251
1907	164,587	178,556	125,643	24,195	7,009	499,990
1908	175,587	184,002	150,651	28,195	8,315	546,750
1909	139,496	171,939	124,685	27,524	7,382	471,026
1910	170,033	192,541	140,925	29,718	8,496	541,713
Total ...	775,457	884,743	642,770	96,428	37,614	2,466,730

Exports.

Year.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Mont-serrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1906	93,842	156,789	104,253	18,561	5,760	379,208
1907	172,410	185,727	122,697	30,076	5,951	516,861
1908	179,106	180,539	109,393	41,434	6,995	517,467
1909	114,122	172,659	100,018	26,550	7,451	420,800
1910	196,184	195,506	109,529	30,003	6,610	537,832
Total ...	755,664	891,220	545,890	146,627	32,767	2,372,168

Imports and Exports.

Year.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Mont-serrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1906 ...	219,596	314,494	205,119	35,078	12,172	786,459
1907 ...	336,997	364,283	248,340	54,271	12,960	1,016,851
1908 ...	354,693	364,541	260,044	69,629	15,310	1,064,217
1909 ...	253,618	344,598	224,703	54,074	14,833	891,826
1910 ...	366,217	388,047	250,454	59,721	15,106	1,079,545
Total ...	1,531,121	1,775,963	1,188,660	272,773	70,381	4,838,898

IMPORTS.

14. The following table exhibits the value of the imports for each of the last five years, distinguishing the countries whence

the imports came, and showing the increase or decrease in 1910 as compared with 1909:—

Country whence imported.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	Increase 1910 over 1909.	Decrease 1910 under 1909
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom...	178,587	231,018	225,773	183,426	229,193	45,767	—
British Colonies ...	68,227	74,844	99,976	81,608	102,738	21,130	—
United States of America.	147,020	177,282	201,350	190,107	191,148	1,041	—
Other Foreign Countries.	13,417	16,846	19,651	15,885	18,634	2,749	—
Total ...	407,251	499,990	546,750	471,026	541,713	70,687	—

EXPORTS.

The value of the exports during each of the last five years, distinguishing the countries to which the exports were sent, and showing the increase or decrease in 1910, as compared with 1909, is shown in the following table:—

Countries to which exported.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	Increase 1910 over 1909.	Decrease 1910 under 1909.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom...	141,614	214,857	159,161	147,318	188,984	41,666	—
British Colonies ...	178,445	236,670	261,529	202,086	271,020	68,934	—
United States of America.	43,143	45,700	72,245	38,287	43,462	5,175	—
Other Foreign Countries.	16,006	29,634	24,532	33,109	34,366	1,257	—
Total ...	379,208	516,861	517,467	420,800	537,832	117,032	—

15. The value of the trade between the Presidencies for the years 1906 to 1910 was as under:—

Year.	Value.
	£
1906	16,501
1907	17,434
1908	20,843
1909	35,295
1910	45,636

Sugar.

16. The quantity of sugar exported from each Presidency during the years 1906 to 1910 is shown below:—

Presidency.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	9,996	13,972	12,501	8,619	13,488
St. Kitts-Nevis...	15,142	14,132	10,986	11,621	12,330
Dominica	82	107	24	—	—
Montserrat	351	207	60	38	190
Virgin Islands	—	1	1	—	—
Total	25,571	28,419	23,572	20,278	26,008

Cotton.

17. The following is a return of cotton exported from the Presidencies of Antigua (including Barbuda), St. Kitts-Nevis (including Anguilla), Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands, during the years 1906-10, and to 31st March, 1911:—

Presidency.	1906.		1907.		1908.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£
Antigua	99,948	6,455	191,220	17,479	178,100	12,983
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	298,519	22,389	464,445	39,067	459,309	33,002
Montserrat ...	86,698	6,502	219,280	17,620	391,068	28,371
Virgin Islands ...	6,975	205	10,033	544	32,520	1,992
Total ...	492,140	35,551	884,978	74,710	1,060,997	76,348

Presidency.	1909.		1910.		To 31st March, 1911.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£
Antigua	59,560	3,248	59,584	4,403	58,128	4,166
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	404,058	23,970	392,039	29.403	527,663	38,475
Montserrat ...	202,542	11,882	209,308	15,698	338,581	25,656
Virgin Islands ...	52,528	2,531	27,589	1,713	26,591	1,994
Total ...	719,088	41,631	489,120	51,218	950,963	70,292

MANUFACTURES, MINES, AND FISHERIES.

18. Sugar is the principal manufacture in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis. In St. Kitts the distilling of rum is of some importance.

19. The staple in Dominica and Montserrat is lime juice. The production of citrate of lime in those islands is being developed.

20. There is a sulphur mine at Soufrière, in Dominica, but it is not worked at present. Phosphate of lime is found in Barbuda, and phosphate of alumina in Redonda.

Negotiations are in process for granting a concession to re-open and work for a term of years an old mine in Virgin Gorda containing molybdenum.

21. There is no recognised fishing industry in the Colony. Fish are caught for local consumption only, except in the Virgin Islands, whence large quantities are exported to the neighbouring Danish island of St. Thomas.

The principal fish caught are kingfish, barracouta, margate, snapper, and cavally. Lobsters are also plentiful.

Sea fishing with rod and reel, as a pastime, has been introduced with considerable success, especially in the waters of Antigua. A spoon-bait is most generally used. Many tarpon have been taken by rod and reel of Barbuda.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANIC STATIONS.*

22. The year 1910-11 may, on the whole, be said to have marked a period of considerable progress and activity in agricultural matters.

23. Sugar cultivation is the largest and most important of the agricultural industries of the Colony and constitutes the principal source of revenue in Antigua and St. Kitts. In both Presidencies the year 1910-11 may be said to have been fairly propitious for sugar cultivation.

The sugar export of Antigua during the year amounted to 13,488 tons, of which 6,397 tons were 96° grey crystal sugar and 7,091 tons muscovado. The Central Sugar Factory at Gunthorpes manufactured 5,400 tons of crystals, taking 8·95 tons cane to make one ton of sugar, while the Bendals Factory was responsible for 1,015 tons of crystals.

The export from St. Kitts amounted to 12,330 tons, consisting almost entirely of muscovado sugar.

24. The most important advance recorded in the entire history of the sugar industry of these islands is the introduction of the central factory system, whereby the old-fashioned and wasteful muscovado process is superseded by modern and economical methods of manufacture. The system was introduced in 1904 when the present factories at Gunthorpes and Bendals in Antigua were erected, grants in aid of their construction being made by the Imperial Government. Seven years' experience has conclusively shown the value of the innovation, and the past year marks a period of further expansion in this direction. In Antigua considerable additions and extensions have been made to the Gunthorpes Factory, thereby increasing its manufacturing capacity to about 8,000 tons of grey crystals in a crop; a further considerable number of estates have in consequence abandoned the muscovado process and now sell canes to the factory. In St. Kitts negotiations were completed during the year for the erection of a

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* Information furnished by H. A. Tempany, Esquire, Superintendent of Agriculture.

central sugar factory near Basseterre; the factory is in course of construction at the time of writing, and it is expected will be completed in time to deal with the crop to be reaped in the early part of 1912. When completed it will have a maximum output of 10,000 tons of crystals. When working to their full capacity the central factories in St. Kitts and Antigua will be able to deal with more than half the total sugar output in these Islands. The firm of Henckell du Buisson & Co. of the Gunthorpes Factory in Antigua are also responsible for the promotion and erection of the St. Kitts Factory. The success so far achieved prompts the hope that acceptable plans may be put forward for the erection of further factories at an early date, and if this bears fruition the almost complete supersession of antiquated methods of manufacture may be hoped for in the course of the next few years.

In Nevis the sugar industry continues to be carried on by the muscovado process, though it has to some extent been superseded by cotton cultivation.

25. In Montserrat, cotton has largely taken the place of sugar, and but little of the latter is exported at the present time. Practically no sugar is at present produced in Dominica, though a certain amount of sugar-cane continues to be grown for the purpose of rum making. In Tortola a small amount of sugar is each year produced for local consumption. In Antigua and St. Kitts interest continues to be manifested in the introduction and trial of new sugar-cane varieties through the medium of the Department of Agriculture. During the year experiments in this direction were also extended to Nevis.

26. At the present time the sugar industry of Antigua is somewhat severely handicapped by the widespread prevalence of root disease of sugar-cane (*Marasmius sacchari*). This disease is somewhat difficult of recognition, especially as its intensity is greatly affected by external conditions. The importance of the disease as a controlling factor in sugar-cane cultivation is gaining in appreciation, but it is only where it is completely recognised that remedial measures can be applied with real prospects of success.

27. Peasant canes have continued to be purchased at the Gunthorpes and Bendals factories in Antigua. During the year the former purchased 3,542 tons and the latter 4,176 tons of peasants' canes. There is no doubt that the provision of an adequate market for peasant-grown cane has had a considerable effect in improving the position of the peasantry in Antigua.

28. The year may, on the whole, be said to have been distinctly satisfactory as regards the cotton industry. As the outcome of the favourable results obtained in the previous year considerable increases in the area planted under the crop occurred in all the Presidencies.

Moderately favourable weather was, on the whole, experienced, and satisfactory yields were almost everywhere obtained. A notable feature of the season was the relatively small prevalence of insect pests. Prices declined somewhat from the high values of the previous year, and during the earlier months of 1911, owing to trade depression in England, the product was difficult of sale.

At the time of writing the bulk of the crop has been disposed of at fairly satisfactory prices.

29. In Antigua the industry suffered a severe check in the years 1907 and 1908, owing to the attacks of the pest known as the Flower Bud Maggot, from which it is slowly recovering. In Antigua 440 acres and in Barbuda 120 acres were planted, making a total of 560 acres for the Presidency, an increase of 215 acres over the previous years. Satisfactory yields were, on the whole, experienced, the average return amounting to 173 lbs. of lint per acre. With a continuation of satisfactory results and increased knowledge of the crop, further extensions may be looked for in the future.

30. In St. Kitts 1,600 acres were planted under cotton, an increase of 600 acres over the previous year; an excellent return was experienced, an average yield of 200 lbs. of lint per acre being obtained. In Nevis some 1,400 acres were planted, an increase of 500 acres over the area planted in 1909-10, the success of the previous season and good prices having induced growers to increase the area under the crop. It is worthy of note that about half this area was grown by peasants, and that a high standard of cultivation was maintained by them throughout. An average yield of over 200 lbs. of lint per acre was obtained, this being the highest yield recorded from Nevis since the inception of the cotton industry.

31. In Anguilla somewhat lower returns were experienced though they were distinctly in advance of those of the previous year.

32. In Monserrat some 2,000 acres were planted, and an average return of close on 200 lbs. of lint per acre was obtained. In this island cotton is now the leading industry, and has contributed largely towards rehabilitating the prosperity of the community. Here, as in Nevis, cotton cultivation by peasants is a factor of considerable importance.

33. In the Virgin Islands peasant cotton-growing under the fostering care of the Government has developed considerably. Here there is practically no estates' cultivation and the cotton is purchased from the growers and subsequently ginned and exported by the Government, through the medium of the Agricultural Department. Considerable attention is devoted to supplying growers with good seed and to instructing them in methods of cultivation. In consequence the prosperity of the Presidency has been considerably increased.

34. The cultivation of limes continues to occupy the position of principal agricultural industry in Dominica, and further expansion has once again to be recorded. The crop for the year was 369,000 barrels, an increase of 85,000 barrels over the crop of 1909. This remarkable increase is partly attributable to the coming into bearing of young plantations established within recent years. Weather conditions were favourable throughout the year, and no marked trouble was experienced as the result of plant disease. The lime industry in Dominica continues to develop, and each year witnesses considerable further addition to the area planted under the crop. The export of green limes to New York

continues to increase. Considerable efforts continue to be made by the Permanent Exhibition Committee of Dominica to popularise limes in England and Canada by means of judicious advertisement and representation at exhibitions. The export of citrate of lime amounted to 5,194 cwt., valued at £16,880; this showed an increase of 1,747 cwt. over the export of 1909.

During the year the erection of a second citrate works at Hampstead Estate in the north of the Island was commenced; this has since been completed. Through the enterprise of Messrs. Rose, the operations of the Bath Estate Citrate Works have been considerably extended, facilities being afforded for the purchase of limes from planters at considerable distances from the works. As a result it should be possible to form an estimate as to how far the central factory system of dealing with products is capable of successful application to the conditions of the Dominica lime industry.

35. In Montserrat the total exports of lime products were valued at £9,000. Trouble continued to be experienced in connection with scale insect pests.

36. In Antigua interest in the crop continues to grow, and considerable increases are being made in the area planted under the crop, especially in the southern district of the Island. In Nevis also interest in the crop continues to increase, while in the Virgin Islands attempts are being made to foster the growth of a small industry.

37. In Dominica the cacao crop amounted to 11,012 cwt., valued at £23,769, a small increase over the exports of the previous year. Small exports of cacao were again made from Montserrat.

Interest continues in the possibility of cacao production in certain suitable localities in St. Kitts and Nevis. The plantations are small in area; that in St. Kitts has been slightly extended, but the total amount of land suitable for this form of cultivation is relatively small.

38. Rubber-growing is now attracting considerable attention in Dominica. Trials have shown that the Para rubber-tree (*Hevea braziliensis*) grows well under the conditions obtaining in many localities; an appreciable area has already been established under the crop and this is being considerably extended. It is hoped that this form of cultivation may prove especially suitable to the conditions obtaining in the interior lands of the Island.

39. The cultivation of cocoanuts continues to attract attention in Antigua and Nevis. About 200 acres have already been established under the crop in each of these islands, and the area is being extended. The older trees present a promising appearance, especially in Nevis, where they are now coming into bearing. Should these pioneer plantations prove financially successful, it appears probable that they may lead to considerable further developments in this direction in the future, as the Colony possesses considerable areas of land at present in waste which appear likely to be well adapted to this form of cultivation.

40. The possibilities of vanilla cultivation on a systematic basis are now engaging some attention in Nevis and Dominica, and

small trial plantations have been established; the development of these attempts will be watched with interest.

41. Onion cultivation for export continues to be carried on with success as a small industry in Antigua. The onions are chiefly grown as a catch crop on land prepared for cane planting. In the other islands onions are raised in small quantities, chiefly for domestic use.

42. The development that has taken place in peasant industrial enterprise during the past few years calls for some comment. With the possible exception of St. Kitts, where the majority of the arable land is occupied by estates' cultivation, the peasant cultivator is a factor of some importance at the present time in every island in the Colony. In Antigua the provision for the purchase of peasant-grown cane by the central factories has had the effect of considerably benefitting the small cultivator, while the industry of peasant cotton-growing is of considerable importance in Montserrat, Nevis, the Virgin Islands, and Anguilla. In Dominica also a considerable proportion of the cacao crop is produced by the peasant proprietary on small holdings. These developments have had a marked and far-reaching influence in improving the condition of the labouring population of the Colony, and though their effects have been felt to some extent by the estates in influence on the available labour supply, nevertheless the net result must be held to be of considerable benefit to the community. The developments have been largely assisted by the Government in the provision of supervision, advice, and instruction in cultural methods and suitable planting material. In the case of the Virgin Islands the further provision of a market for produce has been made. In Dominica the Prize Holding Scheme for peasants' cacao plots, which has been carried on for the last two years, is markedly improving the condition of peasant-grown cacao in the island. Throughout these developments have been carried on through the medium of the Agricultural Department.

43. Botanic and experiment stations continue to be maintained in all the Presidencies under the direction of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies; an agricultural chemical laboratory is also maintained at Antigua under the same direction. Experiments are conducted on sugar-cane, cotton, cacao, and other crops; advice and assistance on the growth of crops and treatment of pests is disseminated among planters.

The "Agricultural News" and "West India Bulletin"—the organs of the Department—are published periodically, and reports on the work of the experiment stations are also issued annually.

Agricultural science masters are attached to the Grammar Schools in Antigua and St. Kitts, and teaching in science and agriculture is regularly given in the schools. Scholarships are provided for pupils taking the agricultural course. Arrangements have been concluded during the past year for the extension of this form of teaching to the Dominica Grammar School.

The series of reading courses and examinations in practical agriculture for overseers, instituted by the Imperial Department of Agriculture in 1908, has been continued during the year with satisfactory results.

LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

44. The value of land in the Colony varies in accordance with its suitability for the cultivation of sugar-cane or other products. In Dominica Crown lands can be purchased at 10*s*. an acre. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane-growing land varies from £4 to £8 an acre.

In Antigua there are over 2,000 acres of land at Piccadilly, Red Hill, and the Ridge, on which there is much valuable timber. In the event of the erection of a sugar factory in that district favourable sections of these lands will doubtless be taken up for the cultivation of sugar-cane.

SHIPPING.

45. Comparing the figures with those for the year 1909, there was a decrease of 14,743 tons in steam vessels and an increase of 2,567 tons in sailing vessels entered and cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1910.

The following table shows the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in each Presidency during each of the last five years, including both steam and sailing vessels, and the increase or decrease in 1910 as compared with 1909:—

Presidency.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	Increase 1910 over 1909.	Decrease 1910 under 1909.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua ...	539,135	567,678	722,862	643,966	644,705	739	—
St. Kitts-Nevis	624,603	620,435	638,961	593,942	625,636	31,694	—
Dominica ...	481,669	508,681	746,640	713,227	694,985	—	18,242
Montserrat ...	309,247	309,778	384,472	362,158	360,326	—	1,832
Virgin Islands	12,599	13,796	14,422	12,853	12,770	—	83
Total ...	1,967,253	2,020,318	2,507,357	2,326,146	2,338,422	32,433	20,157

III.—LEGISLATION.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

46. Forty-six Acts and Ordinances were passed in the Colony during the year 1910. None of these call for any special remark.

IV.—EDUCATION.

47. The number of children on the registers of the Government and grant-aided schools in the Colony during the year 1910-11 was 24,573, as against 24,474 in the year 1909-10. The average daily attendance was 12,082, as against 11,587 for the previous year.

The following table exhibits the number of children on the registers and the average attendance in the elementary schools of the several Presidencies or islands of the Colony, together with the percentage of those registered in the whole Colony who were in average attendance, during the last five years:—

Presidency or Island.	On Registers.				
	1906–7.	1907–8.	1908–9.	1909–10.	1910–11.
Antigua	6,580	6,582	6,747	6,677	6,549
St. Kitts with Anguilla ...	6,412	6,421	6,235	6,355	6,044
Nevis	2,735	2,679	2,656	2,899	2,987
Dominica	4,786	4,505	4,189	4,438	4,816
Montserrat	3,185	3,158	3,000	3,190	3,239
Virgin Islands	614	654	854	915	938
Total	24,312	23,999	23,681	24,474	24,573

Presidency or Island.	Average Attendance.				
	1906–7.	1907–8.	1908–9.	1909–10.	1910–11.
Antigua	2,791	3,027	3,040	3,422	3,337
St. Kitts with Anguilla ...	2,639	2,637	2,704	2,728	2,692
Nevis	1,295	1,276	1,389	1,356	1,519
Dominica	2,110	1,981	1,763	2,014	2,357
Montserrat	1,480	1,474	1,452	1,596	1,693
Virgin Islands	303	302	350	471	484
Total	10,618	10,697	10,698	11,587	12,082
Per cent. for whole Colony ...	43·6	44·6	45·1	47·3	49·1

48. The number enrolled on the registers of the schools in 1910-11 was the highest recorded in the history of elementary education in the Colony.

The increase in the number on the registers since 1891, the year after the introduction of compulsory education, has been 6,887, or 39 per cent.

49. The following table gives the percentage of children on the rolls in average attendance during the year 1910-11, as compared with the average attendance in 1909-10:—

Presidency or Island.	Percentage in Average Attendance.	
	1909-10.	1910-11.
Colony	47·3	49·1
Antigua	51·2	50·6
St. Kitts with Anguilla	42·3	44·5
Nevis	46·7	50·8
Dominica	45·4	48·9
Montserrat	50·0	52·2
Virgin Islands	51·4	51·6

50. The cost of elementary education was derived from the sources shown below:—

—	School Fees.	Government Grant.	Voluntary Contribution.
	£	£	£
Antigua	42	1,570	301
St. Kitts	—	1,346	191
Nevis	—	707	61
Anguilla	—	179	10
Dominica	—	—	—
Montserrat	—	688	47
Virgin Islands...	17	178	36
Total	59	4,668	646

51. The following list of the secondary schools of the Colony shows the amount granted in 1910-11 from local funds in aid of such schools:—

	£
Antigua Grammar School(¹)	250
Antigua Girls' High School(²)	125
Thomas Oliver Robinson Memorial School, Antigua	25
St. Kitts Grammar School(³)	703
Miss Wattley's School, St. Kitts(⁴)	115
Miss Bridgewater's School, Nevis(⁵)	74
Dominica Grammar School(⁶)	431

The sum of £150 was granted from Federal funds in aid of the Moravian Training College for Females, Antigua, and the sum of £60 was provided for the training of six male students at the Mico College, Jamaica, three of whom are selected annually after open competition at the pupil teachers' examination.

52. The following grants-in-aid were contributed from Imperial funds:—

	£
Antigua Grammar School—	
Agricultural and Science Master	165
Allowance to Agricultural and Science Master for quarters	15
Scholarships	70
Contingencies	15
St. Kitts Grammar School—	
Scholarships	90
Dominica Agricultural School—	
Officer in Charge	160
Other salaries and wages	70
General maintenance	320
Total	£905

(¹) Includes £50 for scholarships of £10 each.
(²) " £25 " " " £5 "
(³) " £150 " agricultural and science master, who is also attached to Agricultural School; also £246 school fees repaid to the headmaster.
(⁴) Includes £40 for scholarships of £8 each.
(⁵) " £24 " " " "
(⁶) " £33 6*s.* 8*d.* for scholarships."

St. John's Training School.

53. There is one industrial school in the Colony, viz., the St. John's Training School in Antigua, established under the provisions of Leeward Islands Act, No. 4 of 1891, for the reformation, education, and training of persons under 18 years of age. The number of boys in the school on the 1st April, 1910, was 53.

The daily average for the year of the boys admitted from the several Presidencies compared with the previous year was as follows:—

	1909-10.	1910-11.
Antigua	28·5	27·5
St. Kitts-Nevis	15·0	14·5
Dominica	8·0	7·0
Montserrat	1·0	1·0
Virgin Islands	1·0	1·0
Total	53·5	51·0

The health of the school was very satisfactory. The boys were employed, as in former years, in agricultural and garden work, in addition to the various duties connected with the indoor department of the school.

54. The Presidencies contribute at the rate of £10 a year for each boy sent to the school.

The revenue from all sources amounted to £355, and the expenditure (including pensions, £112, and the estimated value of the rent of the school and Chief Officer's quarters, £70) to £905.

During the year considerable improvements were made in the buildings and the grounds attached to the school.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

55. In the year 1910, 2,496 patients, as against 2,732 for the previous year, were admitted into the hospitals of the Colony. There were 308 deaths, as against 358 for 1909.

There is a central lunatic asylum in Antigua. On the 1st January, 1910, there were 115 inmates (54 males and 61 females); 46 (14 males and 32 females) were admitted; 28 (11 males and 17 females) were discharged as cured; and 20 (5 males and 15 females) died.

56. There are two leper asylums in the Colony: one at Rat Island in Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles in St. Kitts.

In Antigua there were 32 lepers (15 males and 17 females) at the beginning of the year; 2 (females) were admitted during the year, and 3 (males) died.

There is no record in Antigua of any attendant at the asylum having contracted leprosy.

57. The number of inmates in the Antigua Poor-House on the 1st January, 1910, was 91 (28 males and 63 females); 51 inmates were admitted during the year and 20 discharged.

The number of persons who received outdoor relief in the Colony during 1910 was as follows:—Antigua, 409; St. Kitts, 1,000; Nevis, 600; Dominica, 141; Montserrat, 96; and the Virgin Islands, 67.

The Alexandra Cottage Home for Incurables in Dominica, supported partly by voluntary contributions, maintained, on an average, eight paupers.

St. John's Training School in Antigua has been dealt with under Part IV., Education.

58. The number of depositors in the Savings Bank and the amounts at their credit on the 31st March, 1911, are noted below:—

Presidency.	No. of Depositors.	Amount at Credit.
		£
Antigua	2,056	44,442
St. Kitts-Nevis	689	23,520
Dominica	728	13,828
Montserrat	208	4,161
Virgin Islands	101	531
Total	3,782	£86,483

The following table shows the number of depositors and the amounts deposited and withdrawn in the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Deposited.	Withdrawn.
		£	£
1906	3,045	27,017	25,183
1907	3,533	36,666	27,777
1908	3,473	33,550	32,492
1909	3,581	32,388	32,220
1910	3,782	33,845	29,636

The total amount of invested funds is £79,935.

The revenue amounted to £2,350, and the expenditure to £1,580.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

59. The total number of persons in the Colony committed to prison during the year 1910 was 1,144 (545 males, 586 females, and 13 juveniles).

The number of committals in Antigua was 210, as against 257 in 1909.

The number of prisoners transferred from the other Presidencies to the Central Prison, Antigua, was as under:—

Presidency.	Males.	Females.	Total.
St. Kitts-Nevis	5	5	10
Dominica	7	1	8
Montserrat	2	—	2
Virgin Islands	1	1	2
Total	15	7	22

60. The prisoners were employed in the usual service of the prison, such as in cooking for the prisoners and the boys at the training school; cleaning; washing; making and mending clothing and bedding for the prison and the training school; baking bread for the prison, hospital, poor-house, lunatic and leper asylums, and training school; also in quarrying and stone-breaking, smithy work, masonry, and carpentry.

The prisoners were also employed, among other public services without the prison walls, in keeping the pauper cemetery in order; attending to the hospital grounds; making a road around the Bishop Mather School; clearing Otto's Pasture; making and repairing drains at the hospital and training school; and raising the foundations of the training school building.

The cost of the maintenance of each prisoner to Antigua was at the rate of £26 4*s*.

61. The following table gives the total number of offences reported to the police during each of the last four years, together with the convictions and acquittals in each year:—

Year.	Offences reported.	Convicted.	Acquitted.
1907	10,697	6,416	7,459
1908	10,158	6,178	6,999
1909	11,120	7,067	7,958
1910	3,140	6,802	5,473

3,140 cases were reported to the police, while 13,458 persons were brought before the magistrates. The number of summary convictions was 6,802.

The number of convictions in the Superior Courts was 39. 5,450 persons were acquitted in the Inferior Courts and 23 in the Superior Courts.

62. The following table shows the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last four years:—

Comparative Table showing the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last four years.

—	1910.	1909.	1908.	1907.
The number of offences reported to the Police.	3,140	11,120	10,158	10,697
The number of persons brought before the Magistrate.	13,458	15,046	13,243	13,887
The number of summary convictions :—				
1. Offences against property with violence to the person.	—	—	—	—
2. Offences against property	632	791	785	760
3. Other offences against the person ...	1,035	946	1,501	1,324
4. Other offences	5,135	5,330	3,892	4,332
Total	6,802	7,067	6,178	6,416
The number of convictions in the Superior Courts :—				
1. Homicide	—	3	—	—
2. Offences against property with violence not amounting to homicide.	—	—	—	—
3. Other offences against property ...	19	15	32	15
4. Other offences against the person ...	9	9	12	7
5. Other offences	11	3	6	4
Total	39	30	50	26
The number of persons acquitted :—				
1. In the Inferior Courts	5,450	7,939	6,986	7,443
2. In the Superior Courts	23	19	13	16
Total	5,473	7,958	6,999	7,459

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

63. The total population of the Colony, according to the Census of 1901, when only number and sexes were taken, was 127,536, distributed as follows:—

Island.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Antigua	15,558	18,620	34,178
Barbuda	303	472	775
St. Kitts	12,977	16,805	29,782
Nevis	5,605	7,169	12,774
Anguilla	1,687	2,203	3,890
Dominica	12,870	16,024	28,894
Montserrat	5,580	6,635	12,215
Redonda	118	2	120
Virgin Islands...	2,254	2,654	4,908
Total	56,952	70,584	127,536

64. There were 4,649 births and 3,456 deaths. Of the births, 1,762 were legitimate and 2,887, or 62 per cent., illegitimate.

65. The improved and improving health conditions of all the Islands in the Colony should be regarded with much satisfaction. Montserrat has the lowest death-rate, namely, only 13·15 per 1,000 of population. Second comes Anguilla with a death-rate of 14·64 per 1,000; third, the Virgin Islands, with a death-rate of 15; fourth, Barbuda, with a death-rate of 18; fifth, Nevis, with a death-rate of 23·62; sixth, Dominica, with a death-rate of 23·99; seventh, Antigua, with a death-rate of 27·38; and eighth, St. Kitts, with a death-rate of 29·37. In 1906 the death-rate in St. Kitts was only 22·68 per 1,000.

METEOROLOGICAL.

66. The average rainfall in Antigua from January to December, 1910, on 70 stations, was 34·77 inches.

The average rainfall for 37 years—1874 to 1910—was 45·03 inches, so that the precipitation for the year under review was 10·26 inches below the average.

With the exception of the year 1905, in which the average total rainfall was only 31·40 inches, that recorded for the year was the lowest since 1890, a period of 20 years.

The highest rainfall recorded was in 1889, when there were 73·59 inches, and the lowest in 1875, with 28·78 inches.

The highest maximum temperature was 89° on November 2nd.

The lowest minimum temperature was 66° on January 11th and 19th, February 4th, and March 3rd.

Four slight earthquakes were recorded, viz., on June 21st, October 16th and 29th, and December 24th.

57·18 inches of rain were recorded at the Botanic Station, Montserrat. There are no records available for the other Presidencies.

PUBLIC HEALTH—ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA.

67. Much good work has been done during the year by the City Commissioners, and every effort is being made, so far as is permitted by the funds placed at their disposal, to improve the sanitary condition of the City of St. John.

A pamphlet entitled "Rules for Mosquito Destruction, and Hints for the Prevention of Malarial Fever" was published by the Commissioners and freely distributed throughout the Island. This pamphlet was intended to arouse the inhabitants to a full comprehension of the dangers of mosquitoes, the diseases for which they were responsible, and the easy manner in which these troublesome and dangerous pests may be materially reduced, if not entirely stamped out. 500 copies were also distributed throughout the schools of the Colony.

A pamphlet on similar lines has since been issued in Dominica.

The inhabitants are now fully cognisant of the connection between mosquitoes and fever, and quinine has almost entirely superseded the use of "bush" remedies.

The following statistical table relates to the cases treated by the Medical Officer of the City of St. John during the last four years:—

Year.	Patients.	Deaths.	Percentage of Deaths.	Cases of Malarial Fever.	Percentage of cases of Malarial Fever.
1907	6,021	89	1·47	254	4·21
1908	6,374	114	1·78	391	6·13
1909	4,401	137	3·11	155	3·52
1910	5,816	135	2·32	159	2·73

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

68. British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the following lines:—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (fortnightly), the East Asiatic Company (once a month), the Quebec Steamship Company (about twice a month), and the Pickford & Black Steamship Company (twice a month).

69. The mails are taken between St. Thomas and Tortola and between Tortola and Virgin Gorda by a sloop belonging to the Government, and by private boats, as follows:—

From Tortola to St. Thomas, about four times a week; and
From Tortola to Virgin Gorda, about six times a month.

There is a daily mail service by sailing boat between St. Kitts and Nevis, and a fortnightly mail service by sailing boat between St. Kitts and Anguilla. A sloop is also subsidised by the Government of Montserrat to take mails and passengers between that Presidency, Antigua, and St. Kitts.

70. Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other, the other West Indian Colonies, Europe, and America, by the cables of the West India and Panama Telegraphic Company. There is no communication by telegraph with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands. St. Kitts is in heliographic communication with Nevis.

Telephone services have been established in Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica.

71. The following statement shows the volume of the transactions of the Colony in postal matter during the last five years:—

Year.	Letters and cards received and sent.	Books and papers received and sent.	Parcels received and sent.
1906	641,963	218,808	10,127
1907	606,935	216,700	11,043
1908	671,821	219,776	11,680
1909	671,471	222,440	12,280
1910	693,417	228,762	13,626

72. The total value of money orders issued in the Colony was £26,785, as against £22,005 in 1910; and the total value of the orders paid was £27,113, as against £22,995 in the previous year.

The money order transactions were distributed between the Presidencies, as follows—those for St. Kitts and Nevis being shown in the case of each Island:—

	Money Orders Issued.	Money Orders Paid.
	£	£
Antigua	5,157	7,649
St. Kitts	3,340	5,730
Nevis	2,731	2,769
Dominica	5,546	2,458
Montserrat	7,834	7,850
Virgin Islands	2,177	657
Total	£26,785	£27,113

The net profit on the working of the Post Offices of the Colony was £2,904, as against £1,720 in 1909.

73. In Antigua there are 177 telephone instruments in use and 300 miles of wire; in St. Kitts, 97 instruments and 300 miles of wire; and in Dominica, 149 instruments and 425 miles of wire.

The receipts and expenditure in connection with the telephone service of the Colony during the year under review were as under:—

Presidency.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
Antigua	865	840
St. Kitts	540	525
Dominica	596	794

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

74. The year under review was one of unprecedented prosperity for the Colony.

The total revenue of all the Presidencies of the Colony amounted to £164,375, and exceeded the total revenues collected in any previous year within the history of the Colony for which statistics are avaliable.

The surplus of assets for the five Presidencies over their liabilities, which, on the 31st March, 1910, stood at £49,733, was increased on the 31st March, 1911, to £54,845.

The Public Debt of the Colony is £273,250.

26,008 tons of sugar were exported, as compared with 20,278 tons during the previous year.

The estimated value of cotton, at 1*s*. 6*d*. a pound, exported in 1910-11, amounted to £121,509, as against £71,565 during the year 1909-10.

The health of the Colony was excellent, and no quarantinable disease of any kind was recorded.

With the opening of the Panama Canal, closer trade relations with the Dominion of Canada, and the development of a fruit trade, for which some of the Islands are peculiarly adapted; there appears to be every reason to hope that these Islands will, in the near future, revert to the important position which they held in the past.

It is but fitting, in conclusion, to make mention of the enormous part played by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies in the attainment of a financial position which is unique in the history of the Colony.

ANTIGUA.

75. Considerable improvement has been effected in the finances of Antigua during recent years.

The revenue for the year 1910-11 amounted to £52,326, being an increase of £3,743 over that for the previous year, and exceeded the estimates by £2,306.

The expenditure amounted to £53,495.

The financial year began with an excess of assets of £8,110 13*s.* 5½*d.* The expenditure exceeded the revenue by £1,169 7*s.* 8½*d.*, leaving £6,941 5*s.* 9*d.* as the excess of assets on 31st March, 1911, exclusive of the floating liability of £1,500 due to the Imperial Treasury for excess of grants made in 1907.

It is confidently hoped that it may be found possible to build up a reserve fund for the protection of the finances of the Presidency in times of emergency.

The sugar crop exported amounted to 13,488 tons, as against 8,619 tons for the previous year. Of this amount 7,091 tons were muscovado sugar and 6,397 grey crystals. The quantity of peasants' canes purchased was 7,718 tons, as against 4,579 tons in 1909, the prices paid for canes as declared by the Government Board averaging 12*s.* 1*d.* per ton in 1910, as against 9*s.* 6*d.* a ton in the previous year.

Cotton to the value of £8,569 was exported during the year. The total value of imports was £170,033, as against £139,596 in 1909, while the exports amounted to £196,184, and exceeded those of the former year by £82,062.

Among public works of importance, mention should be made of the partial clearing out, by the City Commissioners' Department, of the "Body Ponds," which constitute the main source from whence is derived the water supply for the City of St. John.

A special vote of £3,000 was sanctioned for the erection of a new building to form part of the hospital, at an estimated cost of £2,100, and for the repairs and painting of existing buildings at the hospital and poor-house, to an estimated cost of £900. A fine two-storied building of reinforced concrete, capable of holding 80 beds, is in course of erection, and will shortly be completed.

The printing office was transferred to the lower storey of the Public Works Department, and the vacated building converted into a club house for the local forces.

The health of the Island was excellent, and no quarantinable disease of any kind whatever made its appearance.

Continued attention was given to the improvement of the roads throughout the Island.

At the time of writing, negotiations are on foot for the erection of a third central factory in the Eastern District of the Presidency.

BARBUDA.

76. The revenue of Barbuda for 1910-11 was £2,317, as against £1,722 for the year 1909-10, and the expenditure £1,385, as against £1,393. It will thus be seen that the revenue for 1910-11 exceeded the expenditure by £932. The surplus funds to the credit of Barbuda on the 1st April, 1911, amounted to £1,363 11*s*. 9*d*.

Success again attended the cotton crop, as the weather conditions were favourable, and the cotton pests comparatively few. There was a considerable reduction in the selling price of cotton owing to the depressed state of the cotton market.

The rainfall for the year was 32·23 inches. The greater part of the rain fell during the latter part of the year. A severe drought was experienced from February to July, which caused severe losses among the horses and cattle on the Island.

A shipment of blackbirds was imported from Barbados, through the Imperial Department of Agriculture, for destroying the insects, more especially "ticks" on the pastures. The birds have nested and appear to have become quite accustomed to their new surroundings.

Excellent tarpon and other sea fishing may be had; also good shooting. Deer abound, and wild pig, guinea fowl, pigeon, and duck are plentiful. The shooting seasons are from 1st January to 31st March, and 1st July to 30th September.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.*

77. The revenue and expenditure figures for 1910-11 were considerably in advance of those of the previous year. The total revenue (exclusive of the Imperial Grant for Agricultural services) was £52,747 17*s*. 7*d*., or £5,405 1*s*. 7*d*. more than in 1909-10. This is the highest revenue that has ever been collected in the Presidency and exceeded the estimate by £4,078 17*s*. 7*d*.

The expenditure reached a total of £49,871 13*s*. 6*d*., or £2,876 4*s*. 1*d*. less than the revenue. It exceeded, however, the original estimate for the year by £2,489, owing to the fact that in view of the large increase in revenue, sundry services were undertaken in the course of the year which were not contemplated when the estimates were prepared and passed by the Legislature. The financial transactions of the twelvemonth have thus raised the surplus funds of the Presidency from £16,490 on 31st March, 1910, to £19,367 on 31st March, 1911.

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* By His Honour T. Laurence Roxburgh, Esq., C.M.G., Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis.

While this is eminently satisfactory, it does not remove the necessity for continued economy and care. In last year's Report reference was made to increased recurrent charges which would shortly fall on the revenue, and it is even more necessary now than it was then, to emphasise the need for keeping a strict watch on expenditure. There has been added to the contribution for the Mail Subsidy a further sum of £300 (nett), while the contribution of the Presidency to meet federal expenditure has increased this year by £236, the charge on local funds for Agricultural services has risen by £200, and sundry other expenses, such, for instance, as an increase by 10 per cent. on the annual charge made by Antigua for the maintenance of lunatics at the Central asylum in that Island, have necessarily to be incurred. The items mentioned are all expenses which the Presidency has been called upon from outside (if such an expression, for lack of a better, may be excused) to incur, and it becomes increasingly necessary to keep as low as possible the regular everyday cost of carrying on the Government.

78. The value of imports into the Presidency in 1910 was £195,277, as against £174,220 in 1909. Of the total the United Kingdom supplied goods to the value of £70,737, other Colonies £30,613, and Foreign Countries £93,927. The United States of America supply the bulk of the goods coming from the foreign countries, but there is also a considerable importation of gin from Holland. It is remarkable that the labouring population here drink more gin than rum, the reason being that, while they prefer the latter, it actually costs more than the foreign spirit.

While imports have thus gone up greatly in value, exports have increased to an even greater extent.

In 1909 the value of exports was £182,446, while in 1910 it was £205,693. The quantity of sugar exported was 12,330 tons, against 11,621 tons in 1909, the value being £136,206, or £31,515 more than in the preceding year. The export of cotton reached 392,039 lbs., of a value of £29,403, as compared with an export of 404,058 lbs. of a value of £23,970 in 1909.

It is interesting to note some revival in the export trade of live stock, especially from Nevis. The peasant proprietors in that Island raise a good many cattle and some horses. There is a market for these animals in the more southern islands, and the trade is capable of considerable development and should be pushed.

79. The cultivation of other products besides sugar and cotton continues to be urged on the planting community, and much good work is being done by the Agricultural Department in assisting agriculturists to establish plantations of cocoa, limes, and other articles. It must be admitted, however, that the conditions of soil and climate are not so propitious for the growth of these as they are for cane and cotton, which will doubtless continue, therefore, to be the staple articles of export from the Presidency for several years to come.

80. An event of great interest and importance to the Presidency was the conclusion, towards the close of the year, of agreements between a London firm, representing English capitalists, and several of the owners of sugar estates in St. Kitts, for the establish-

ment of a central sugar factory in the rich and fertile Basseterre Valley. If one may judge of the results which have followed the central factory in the sister island of Antigua, the establishment of a similar factory here should prove of great benefit to this island. Certainly, the output of sugar will be increased—sugar of a better description than that now manufactured at most of the present estates.

81. The principal work undertaken by the Public Works Department during the year was the construction of an entirely new timber pier at Charlestown, Nevis, and the erection thereon of a new 5-ton crane, in addition to the 30 cwt. crane on the old pier. The pier is constructed of Demerara "Greenheart" timber, imported specially for the purpose, and it is hoped that it will prove a durable structure. The work was not quite finished at 31st March, but has since been completed, the total cost being about £1,400.

Progress was made with the new Government House in the same island. It is a handsome grey stone building of imposing appearance, and will doubtless prove a comfortable residence.

During the year the Government constructed, at a cost of £1,062, a house for the Medical Officer of the No. 3 Medical District, St. Kitts, as he was unable to obtain a residence otherwise within the limits of his district. The Medical Officer pays a rental of £40 for the house.

The public roads in the Presidency were maintained in good order, and the condition of the public buildings generally in all the Islands of the Presidency has much improved.

82. A regular mail service by a subsidised sloop, connecting with the mails to and from England, has been established between Anguilla and St. Kitts, thus bringing the two Islands into closer touch with each other to their great advantage, especially that of the former. The commencement of the fast motor boat service between St. Kitts and Nevis has been deferred owing to difficulties which have arisen, but it is expected that it will be inaugurated before long. Meantime, there is daily communication between the Islands by means of large sailing boats of 10 to 12 tons, one of which carries the mails and provides passenger accommodation under contract with the Government.

83. The public health of the Presidency continued to be good during the year under review and there was no case of a quarantinable nature. The prevailing malady in these Islands is *Filariasis*, which is always present and of which there are many victims. Unfortunately, there appears to be no specific for it as quinine is for malaria. Something is being done towards the destruction of mosquitoes, which are responsible for the spread of both diseases, but it is uphill work against the apathy and prejudice of the general population.

While there is a good deal of poverty, as there always will be, there are indications that the general prosperity of the population is increasing. The imports of clothing, for instance, show an improved spending power on the part of the community. The value of land and house property, too, has risen considerably.

It is often regretted that so many persons leave the Islands for work in the United States of America, Canada, and other places.

It is a fact, however, that a very considerable sum of money is remitted every year by such emigrants to their relatives here, all of which goes into circulation, to the great advantage of the community. Some of the persons who leave these shores to seek work elsewhere fail to meet their obligations to those dependent on them, whom they have left behind, but it is gratifying to be able to say that in the great majority of cases those left at home are not forgotten, but receive an appreciable share of the earnings of the emigrant.

The people of the three Islands comprised in this Presidency have continued law-abiding and loyal. No attempt at riot or lesser disturbance has ruffled the peace of the community, while the devotion of the people to the Throne was evidenced in a remarkable manner by their sorrow at the death of His late Majesty, King Edward, in May, 1910, and the interest they took, and enthusiasm they showed in the subsequent Proclamation of His present Majesty as their Sovereign Lord and King.

DOMINICA.

85. The financial year 1910-11 opened with a surplus balance of £15,361.

The revenue amounted to £41,473, and the expenditure to £39,050, leaving a surplus balance on the 31st March, 1911, of £17,784.

The aggregate trade of the Presidency in the statistical year ended 31st December, 1910, was valued at £259,432, of which £147,322 represents imports, and £112,110 represents exports. These figures, however, include whale oil and whalers' stores to the value of £10,966, which were merely transhipped within the waters of the Presidency. It is a highly encouraging fact that the exports alone amounted in value to three-fourths of the entire trade of the Island ten years ago.

The Customs return, showing the direction of trade, indicates that of the imports 42 per cent. were from the United Kingdom, 25·5 per cent. from the United States of America, and 7·5 per cent. from the Dominion of Canada. Of the exports, 52·4 per cent. were taken by the United Kingdom, 31·5 per cent. by the United States, and 2·7 per cent. by Canada.

86. The area covered by the staple crops has been largely increased, and considerable attention is being devoted to the cultivation of rubber, especially *Hevea Braziliensis*, which variety appears to thrive best in Dominica. It is estimated that 40,000 plants are already in various stages of growth throughout the Island; and it is probable that 30,000 seedlings will be set out in the course of the present year. The results obtained from the experimental tappings of the more advanced trees has been most encouraging.

The shipments of cacao in 1910 amounted to 1,262,492 lbs.

The lime crop is computed to have been 369,019 barrels, of which 27,427 were shipped as fresh fruit, as against 22,523 in 1909. The aggregate value of limes and lime products was £70,333, being 22 per cent. above that of the previous year.

87. During the current financial year much has been done to improve the means of communication, by the erection of bridges over the principal rivers of the Island. The iron bridge at Rosalie, commenced in 1909-10, was completed; substantial ferro-concrete bridges have been erected over the Hodges and Penton rivers; trussed-girder iron bridges have been placed across the Hampstead and Stewart rivers; and the renovation and re-flooring with ferro-concrete of the Bath and Goodwill bridges, which span the Roseau river, is approaching completion.

The new Treasury and Customs premises were occupied this year. They cost £5,377.

88. During the year, "Dominica Forests, Limited," the Company formed to exploit the timber district around Portsmouth, and which has been registered in Jersey, was reconstructed, with increased capital, and placed on the London market. The shares (£80,000) were readily taken up, and the preliminary operations, including construction of light railway and erection of saw-mills, &c., are being rapidly pushed forward.

MONTSERRAT.*

89. The financial position of the Presidency of Montserrat continues to improve, and on the 31st March, 1911, was in a far better position than was anticipated when the estimates were framed; the revenue collected having exceeded the estimates by £2,809, and the actual expenditure by £985.

The revenue, £12,262, is unprecedented. It exceeds the revenue for the previous year by £1,650, and the average for the past five years by £2,670.

The expenditure, £11,366, has only twice been exceeded. In 1898 it was £11,933, and in 1899, £16,607, owing to heavy expenditure necessitated by the riot and flood in 1898 and the hurricane in 1899. In each of these years there was a deficit of £1,989 and £5,736, respectively, which had to be made good by Imperial Grants.

The surplus at the close of the financial year was £10,554, which exceeded the surplus at the close of the previous year by £897, although £2,863 had been expended on a new jetty and £150 on the Botanical Department.

The Customs revenue, £8,509, exceeded the previous year's collections by £1,784; import duties on other than alcoholic liquors being £1,297; import duties on alcoholic liquors £202, and export duties £285, in excess of the previous year. These increases are due to the flourishing condition of the people.

90. The total value of imports (£38,106), exceeds the previous year's by £6,763. Of this amount, £2,542 is the value of material imported for the new jetty. The principal increases are—ice plant, £241; flour, £198; corn meal, £123; cotton goods, £557; hardware, £1,157; boots and shoes, £228; dried fish, £233; groceries, £178; specie, £680; shooks, £345.

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* By His Honour Lieut.-Colonel Davidson-Houston, C.M.G., Commissione of Montserrat.

The total value of exports (£34,393), exceeds the previous year's by £2,824, due principally to Sea Island cotton, 211,311 lbs. valued at £15,695 having been exported in 1910, as against 202,542 lbs. valued at £11,884 exported in 1909, an excess of £3,811. On the other hand the value of raw lime juice exported dropped from £6,954 in 1909 to £5,403 in 1910, a decrease of £1,551.

91. The number of letters and book post which passed through the Post Office during the year was 94,381, as against 91,136 the previous year, an increase of 3,245. The ordinary letters received numbered 39,849, registered letters 1,478, and book post 12,626. The number dispatched—ordinary letters, 74,503; registered letters, 1,926; book post, 2,852.

92. The chief work of the Botanic Department during the year was as follows:—

Attempts to obtain a superior strain of cotton suitable for general cultivation; cultural experiments with lime trees; experiments to ascertain the precise effect of covering lime trees with Bengal beans; work with bay trees, which included experimental cultivation and also distilling of the leaves. Comparative trials were made with varieties of ground-nuts, and particular attention was given to the most important food crop of the Island—the sweet potato. The collection of the latter now includes 42 varieties.

Miscellaneous work included tests with cotton seeds to show what precautions should be taken with seeds reserved for planting; tests were made to show the injury caused by the cotton stainer, and a successful attempt was made to introduce the St. Vincent Jack Spaniard, which, in that island is known to be effective in controlling the cotton worm.

The total average rainfall during the year was 45·74 inches, which was 10·32 inches less than the average for the past five years.

93. Seven Ordinances were passed during the year. Ordinance No. 2 of 1910 makes it unlawful to use white phosphorus in the manufacture of matches, or to import or offer for sale matches made with white phosphorus. Ordinance No. 3 empowers the Treasurer to detain unseaworthy British ships registered in the Colony. No. 5 was passed to exempt from export duties fresh fruits and vegetables, and to reduce the duty on short staple varieties of cotton from 4*s*. 2*d*. per 100 lbs. to 1*s*. 2*d*.

94. The health of the Island has been good; the number of births was 409, as against 359 the previous year, and deaths 187, against 225. The birth-rate was 28·62 and the death-rate 13·15 per 1,000. No disease of a quarantinable nature visited the Island.

95. The permanent exhibition committee sent the following to the Toronto Exhibition:—

Twenty-four crates fresh limes, 40 lbs. Guava jelly, 20 lbs. preserved pineapples, 20 lbs. Guavarina, samples of lime-juice (raw and concentrated), otto of limes, distilled lime essence, citrate of lime, cocoa, beans, arrowroot, bay oil, lemongrass oil, cotton seed, Sea Island cotton lint, and seed cotton. For these exhibits the committee was awarded a Gold Medal and Diploma of Merit.

96. The only important public work during the year was the erection of an iron pier at Plymouth (on the site of the old wooden structure), the estimated cost of which is £3,000. The work is almost completed and promises to be one of the finest jetties in the West Indies.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.*

97. The returning prosperity of these Islands was advanced during the year under review.

The year's transactions, exclusive of Grants-in-Aid to the Agricultural Department, but including the expenditure on, and receipts from, the cotton and lime industries, show an excess of revenue over expenditure of £85 18*s*. 1*d*., as detailed below, to which, however, must be added £1,907 18*s*. 4*d*. and £75 16*s*. 4*d*., being respectively the estimated value of cotton and cotton seed, and lime juice on hand at the close of the year, and a non-recurrent expenditure of £454 12*s*. 3*d*. on additions and improvements to public buildings.

	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Ordinary	3,065	8	10½	2,976	1	1½
Cotton Industry	2,348	16	2	2,373	11	6
Lime Industry	151	6	2	130	13	0
Land Sales		12	6	—		
	£5,566	3	8½	£5,480	5	7½
Imperial Grant-in-Aid of Agriculture	525	0	0	484	0	11
	£6,091	3	8½	£5,964	6	6½

The apparently small surplus is consequent on no account sales having been received within the year for the cotton crop planted in 1910, owing to the lateness of the same, and from the depressed state of the cotton market causing little or no demand for Sea Island cotton.

98. The imports from the Presidency amounted to £8,717, an increase of £1,138 over that of the preceding year.

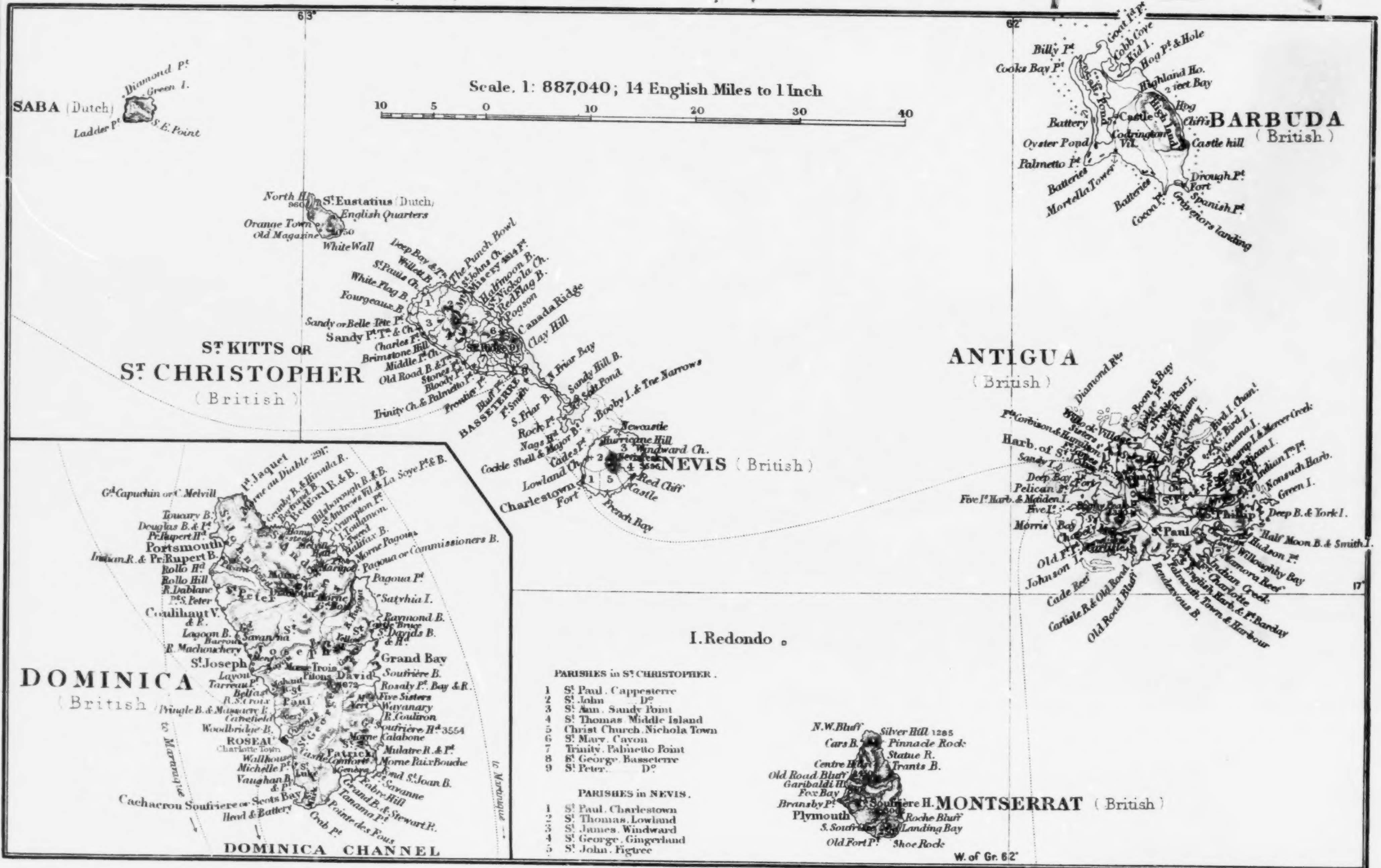
The exports show a decrease of £835 on the previous year, the decrease being entirely due to the small cotton crop, the value of which fell short of that of the previous year by £912 16*s*. 6*d*. Exports other than cotton consequently show an increase of £78. The total trade of the Presidency, notwithstanding the short cotton crop referred to above, was £403 over that of the previous year.

100. The public buildings received special attention during the year, £563 being spent on thir maintenance and improvement.

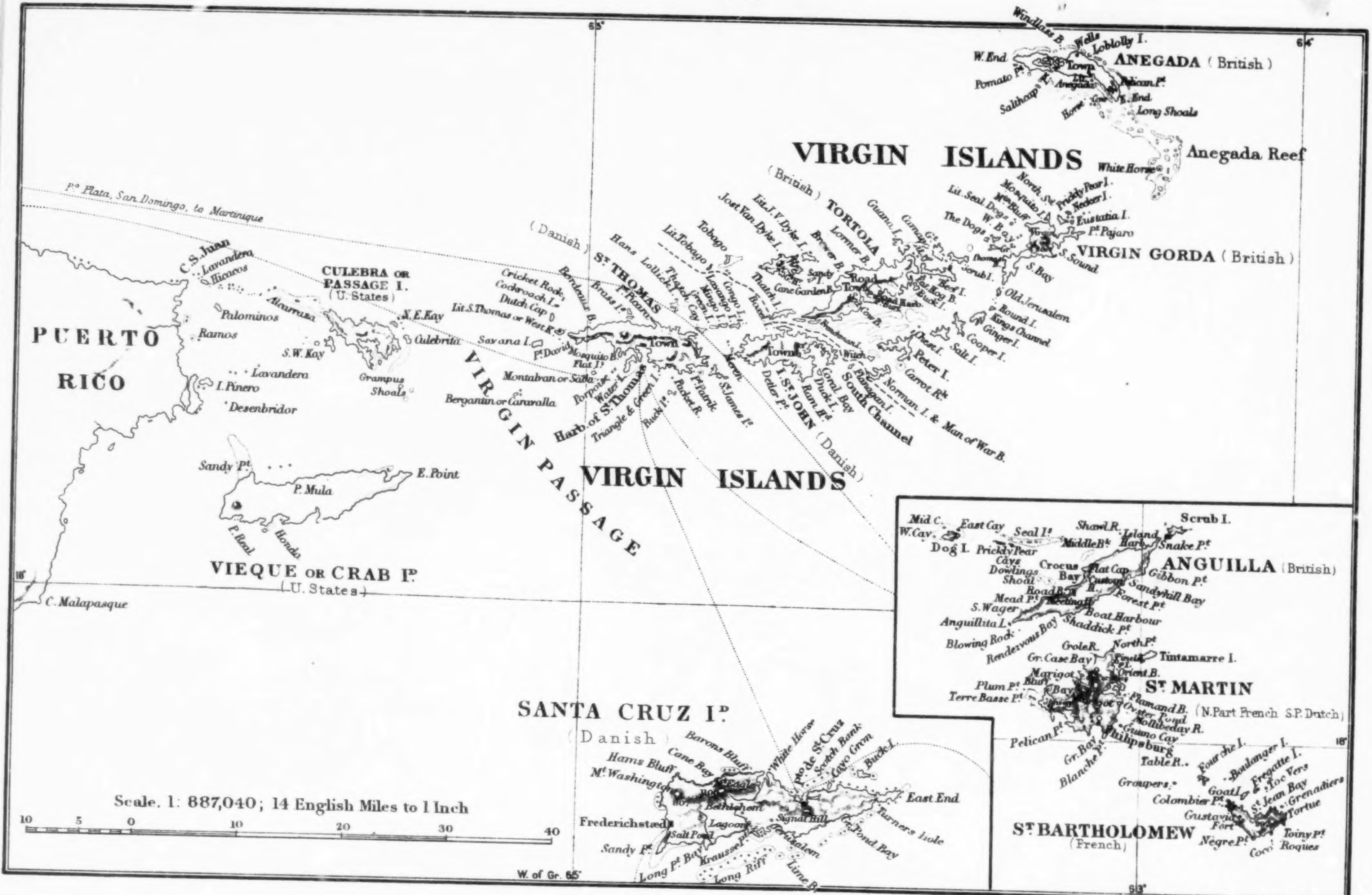
The roads received due attention. Those in Road Town and the neighbourhood were much improved, and the old wooden culverts were replaced by concrete ones.

---

* By His Honour Leslie Jarvis, Esq., Commissioner of the Virgin Islands.


Scale, 1: 887,040; 14 English Miles to 1 Inch
10 5 0 10 20 30 40
SABA (Dutch)
Diamond Pt
Green I.
Ladder Pt
S.E. Point
St. Eustatius (Dutch)
North Hill 860
English Quarters
Orange Town
Old Magazine
White Wall
St. KITTS OR
St. CHRISTOPHER
(British)
BASSETERRE
Sandy Pt. T.
Brimstone Hill
Canada Ridge
Clay Hill
NEVIS (British)
Charlestown
Newcastle
Hurricane Hill
Windward Ch.
Red Cliff
Castle
French Bay
Lowland Ch.
Cades Pt.
Booby I. & The Narrows
BARBUDA
(British)
Codrington Vil.
Castle hill
Highland Ho.
Billy Pt.
Cooks Bay Pt.
Oyster Pond
Palmetto Pt.
Martello Tower
Batteries
Spanish Pt.
Cocoa Pt.
Drough Pt.
ANTIGUA
(British)
Harb. of St. John's
Diamond Rks.
St. Paul
St. Philip
English Harb. & Pt. Barclay
Falmouth Town & Harbour
Rendezvous B.
Willoughby Bay
Half Moon B. & Smith I.
Deep B. & York I.
Green I.
Nonsuch Harb.
Old Road Bluff
Johnson I.
Five I.
Morris Bay
Pelican Pt.
Deep Bay
I. Redondo
MONTSERRAT (British)
Plymouth
Silver Hill 1285
Soufrière H.
N.W. Bluff
Pinnacle Rock
Roche Bluff
Landing Bay
Shoe Rock
Old Fort Pt.
Garibaldi H.
Fox Bay
Bransby Pt.
W. of Gr. 62°
63°
62°
17°
DOMINICA
(British)
Portsmouth
Prince Rupert B.
Gd. Capuchin or C. Melvill
Pt. Jaquet
Morne au Diable 2917
La Soye Pt. & B.
Pagoua or Commissioners B.
Pagoua Pt.
St. Peter
Coulihaut V. & R.
St. Joseph
Grand Bay
Soufrière B.
Rosaly Pt. Bay & R.
Soufrière Hd. 3554
Mulatre R. & Pt.
Morne Paix Bouche
St. Joan B.
Savanne
ROSEAU
Charlotte Town
St. David
St. Patrick
St. Paul
St. George
St. Luke
Woodbridge B.
Michelle Pt.
Vaughan B. & Pt.
Scots Bay
Head & Battery
Cachacrou Soufrière or Scots Bay
Crab Pt.
Pointe des Fous
Grand B. & Stewart R.
Fabre Hill
Tanama Pt.
to Martinique
DOMINICA CHANNEL
PARISHES in St. CHRISTOPHER.
1 St. Paul, Cappesterre
2 St. John Do.
3 St. Ann, Sandy Point
4 St. Thomas, Middle Island
5 Christ Church, Nichola Town
6 St. Mary, Cayon
7 Trinity, Palmetto Point
8 St. George, Basseterre
9 St. Peter, Do.
PARISHES in NEVIS.
1 St. Paul, Charlestown
2 St. Thomas, Lowland
3 St. James, Windward
4 St. George, Gingerland
5 St. John, Figtree

Stanford's Geog.l Estab.t London.


VIRGIN ISLANDS (British)
ANEGADA (British)
Anegada Reef
VIRGIN GORDA (British)
TORTOLA
Jost Van Dyke I.
Lit. J. V. Dyke I.
Tobago
Lit. Tobago
Guana I.
Peter I.
Norman I.
Salt I.
Cooper I.
Ginger I.
Round I.
Old Jerusalem
Kings Channel
South Channel
Man of War B.
St. THOMAS (Danish)
Hans Lollick I.
Thatch Cay
Brass Is.
Bordeaux B.
Town
Harb. of St. Thomas
Water I.
Buck Is.
St. James Is.
I. St. JOHN (Danish)
Coral Bay
Ram Hd.
Duck I.
VIRGIN ISLANDS
VIRGIN PASSAGE
Savana I.
Sail Rock
Cricket Rock
Cockroach I.
Dutch Cap
Lit. S. Thomas or West R.
Montabran or Salba
Bergantin or Cararalla
CULEBRA OR PASSAGE I. (U. States)
Culebrita
N. E. Kay
S. W. Kay
Grampus Shoals
PUERTO RICO
C. S. Juan
Lavandera
Hicacos
Palominos
Ramos
I. Pinero
Desenbridor
Alcarraza
VIEQUE OR CRAB Ip. (U. States)
Sandy Pt.
P. Mula
E. Point
P. Real
Honda
C. Malapasque
Po. Plata, San Domingo, to Martinique
SANTA CRUZ Ip. (Danish)
Frederichsted
Mt. Washington
Hams Bluff
Cane Bay
Barons Bluff
White Horse
Signal Hill
Bethlehem
Lagoon
Salt Pond
Sandy Pt.
Long Pt. Bay
Krausse Pt.
Long Riff
Jerusalem
Lime B.
Gr. Pond Bay
Turners Hole
East End
Buck I.
Scotch Bank
Cayo Grom
ANGUILLA (British)
Scrub I.
Dog I.
Prickly Pear Cays
Seal Is.
Sandyhill Bay
Road B.
Forest Pt.
Blowing Rock
Anguillita I.
Rendezvous Bay
Shaddick Pt.
Tintamarre I.
St. MARTIN (N. Part French S. P. Dutch)
Marigot
Philipsburg
Terre Basse Pt.
Plum Pt.
Pelican Pt.
Oyster Pond
St. BARTHOLOMEW (French)
Gustavia
St. Jean Bay
Fourche I.
Boulanger I.
Fregatte I.
Colombier Pt.
Toiny Pt.
Roques
Grenadiers
Tortue
63°
64°
65°
18°
W. of Gr. 65°
Scale. 1: 887,040; 14 English Miles to 1 Inch
10
5
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30
40

Stanford's Geog! Estab! London.

101. The health of the Presidency was, as usual, excellent.

A prolonged period of drought was experienced during the year, which seriously affected agricultural and pastoral pursuits; the rainfall being only 41·32 inches, or 14·28 inches short of the average for the last 10 years.

102. Educational grants amounted to £195 12*s*. 8*d*., being an increase of £20 17*s*. 11*d*. over those of the previous year. The attendance at the schools has greatly improved, and the advancement of education and discipline is apparent in all the schools.

103. The shopkeepers continue to improve their stock-in-trade, and now nearly all the requirements of life can be procured locally, the effect of which, as stated last year, is reducing the trade carried on by small boats between these Islands and the Danish Island of St. Thomas. Road Town, in consequence, is gradually taking its proper place as the commercial centre of the Virgin Islands. The promotion of this desirable object would be further accelerated by direct steam communication, which it is hoped may be realised when reciprocal trade relations are concluded with Canada, and that Tortola may then become the distributing centre of Canadian goods to the Danish West Indian Islands.

104. The agricultural commercial undertakings, carried on at the Government factory, were well maintained. During the year 50,337 lbs. of cotton, valued at £3,180, and cotton seed, valued at £250, were exported. Although the weight of cotton shipped was somewhat smaller than that of 1909 (the record year to date), there was a much higher percentage of first class cotton.

Limes purchased at the station amounted to about 800 barrels, as against 625 barrels in the previous year. Fourteen casks of concentrated and five casks of raw lime juice were shipped, and realised £168.

The peasants' canes received show an increase over that of the previous year, and about 60 barrels of muscovado sugar were manufactured at the factory.

EDWARD B. JARVIS,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
Leeward Islands.

10th January, 1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
682	Falkland Islands	1910
683	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
684	Bahamas	1910–1911
685	Colonial Survey Committee	"
686	Malta	"
687	Imperial Institute	1910
688	Gold Coast	"
689	Fiji	"
690	Somaliland	"
691	Hong Kong...	"
692	Nyasaland	1910–1911
693	Seychelles	1910
694	Sierra Leone	"
695	Southern Nigeria	"
696	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1910–1911
697	Swaziland	"
698	Barbados	"
699	Trinidad and Tobago	"
700	Mauritius	1910
701	Grenada	"
702	British Guiana	1910–1911
703	Jamaica	"
704	Northern Nigeria	"
705	East Africa Protectorate	"
706	British Honduras	1910
707	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
708	Uganda	1910–1911
709	Straits Settlements	1910
710	Basutoland	1910–1911

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Surveys, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies...	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 749.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1911-12.

(For Report for 1910-11, *see* No. 711.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
February, 1913.

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No. 749.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1910-11, *see* No. 711.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Antigua,
2nd January, 1913.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the report on the Blue Book for the financial year 1911-12, which was drawn up by the late Colonial Secretary, Mr. H. E. Grant, C.M.G., just before his departure for the Tonga Islands.

2. The report discloses a steady and very satisfactory degree of improvement in almost every direction. The recent *renaissance* of prosperity in these old Colonies is very clearly indicated by the figures shown in the financial returns.

3. In the space of five years the value of the trade of the Leeward Islands has risen from £1,016,000 to £1,235,000, while, without any increase of taxation, the public revenue has risen from about £152,000 to more than £174,000. Five years ago the surplus assets of the five Presidencies only amounted to £38,485, whereas they now show a total of more than £70,000.

4. The debt of the Colony has been steadily reduced, and, after deduction of the sinking fund, now stands at £186,464, a sum which represents little more than a single year's revenue. The public indebtedness of the inhabitants of these islands amounts to only £1 9*s.* 3*d.* per head, a proportion which, I believe, is the lowest in all the West Indian Colonies.

5. The steady improvement in the economic condition of these islands may, I think, be mainly ascribed to the erection of central sugar factories in Antigua, to the establishment of a cotton industry in St. Kitts and Nevis, to the encouragement of peasant proprietors in Montserrat, and to the attraction of British capital to Dominica in connection with the planting of limes, cocoa, and fruit.

6. The clearest proof of the increasing value of property in these islands lies in the fact that plantations in good condition now

rarely come into the market, and that the sale of abandoned sugar estates for comparatively trifling sums is a thing of the past. It is, however, still possible to purchase land at reasonable rates in Antigua, Nevis, and Montserrat, which are eminently suited for the cultivation of sugar, cotton, and coconuts, while in Dominica vast areas of Crown land of great fertility are offered by the Government at the rate of 10*s*. per acre. The suitability of Dominica for limes, rubber, cocoa, fruit, and other valuable tropical products has been amply proved, and many new and flourishing plantations have recently been established in that island.

7. The prospect of a closer connection with Canada, through the Preferential Trade Agreement which is now being concluded, is already showing a marked influence on commerce and enterprise, but it is the universal opinion that a direct service of up-to-date steamships calling at all the principal islands is indispensable to the success of the scheme.

8. The Leeward Islands Colony has been mercifully spared, for many years, from hurricanes, earthquakes, or other great disasters. The fear of such catastrophes, however, need deter no one from investing capital in these islands, for, not only are such disasters comparatively rare, but arrangements now exist by which property can be insured against loss of all kinds at moderate rates.

I have, &c.,

H. HESKETH BELL,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1911-1912.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1912 (exclusive of grants in aid of the Agricultural Department from the Imperial Government, amounting to £1,773 10*s*.) was £174,818, showing an increase of £10,443 in comparison with the revenue for the year 1910-11.

2. The following table shows the amount of revenue collected in each Presidency (exclusive of Imperial grants in aid of the Agricultural Department) during the last five years, as also the increase or decrease as compared with 1910-11:—

Presidency.	1907–8.	1908–9.	1909–10.	1910–11.	1911–12.	Increase 1911–12 over 1910–11.	Decrease 1911–12 under 1910–11.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ...	50,620	51,502	48,583	52,326	52,292	—	34
St. Kitts-Nevis	49,336	47,133	47,343	52,748	58,002	5,254	—
Dominica ...	38,999	40,500	38,937	41,473	43,719	2,246	—
Montserrat ..	10,232	10,950	10,612	12,262	12,945	683	—
Virgin Islands	3,421	4,248	4,195	5,566	7,860	2,294	—
Total ...	152,608	154,333	149,670	164,375	174,818	10,477	34

3. The Imperial grants in aid of the Agricultural Department were as follows:—

	£
Antigua	468
St. Kitts-Nevis	380
Dominica	335
Montserrat	250
Virgin Islands	340
Total	£1,773

4. The following is a return showing the number of licenses issued in the Leeward Islands in 1911 for the sale of intoxicating liquors, and the revenue derived therefrom:—

Presidency.	No. of Licenses.	Revenue.
		£
Antigua	21	781
St. Kitts-Nevis	49	1,707
Dominica	109	1,064
Montserrat	45	210
Virgin Islands	14	32

5. The aggregate expenditure for the year 1911-12 (exclusive of that in respect of the Agricultural Department from Imperial grants in aid) was £158,925, as against £159,263 for the year 1910-11, showing a decrease of £338.

6. The expenditure of each Presidency during the last five years is shown on the following table, as is also the increase or decrease as compared with 1910-11:—

Presidency.	1907–8.	1908–9.	1909–10.	1910–11.	1911–12.	Increase 1911–12 over 1910–11.	Decrease 1911–12 under 1910–11.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ...	46,968	49,964†	49,204‡	53,495	53,652	157	—
St.Kitts-Nevis	46,121	45,722	47,932	49,872	50,737	865	—
Dominica ...	30,620	36,541	41,276	39,050	38,399	—	651
Montserrat ...	8,016	9,296	7,807§	11,366	10,030	—	1,336
Virgin Islands	*3,823	4,693	3,687	5,480	6,107	627	—
Total ...	135,548	146,216	149,906	159,263	158,925	1,649	1,987

* Included £1,772 expended on the cotton industry.
† Included £1,542 repayment of loans.
‡ Included £500 repayment of loans.
§ Included £500 repayment of loans.

7. The expenditure from Imperial funds on the Agricultural Department was as follows:—

	£
Antigua	559
St. Kitts-Nevis	396
Dominica	392
Montserrat	262
Virgin Islands	339
Total	£1,948

8. The surplus of assets over liabilities on the 31st March, 1912, amounted to £70,740, which was made up as follows:—

	£	
Antigua ...	5,582	(exclusive of a floating liability of £1,000 due to the Imperial Treasury for excess of grants made in 1907).
St. Kitts-Nevis	26,633	
Dominica ...	23,104	
Montserrat ...	13,469	
Virgin Islands	1,952	

9. The assets and liabilities of the Colony on the 31st March, 1912, as compared with the assets and liabilities on the 31st March, 1911, are shown below:—

	1910-11.	1911-12.
	£	£
Assets	66,228	80,521
Liabilities	11,383	9,782
Surplus of Assets ...	£54,845	£70,739

The surplus of assets for the Island of Barbuda amounted to £1,832.

10. The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounts to £267,050. During the year it was reduced by £6,200, repayment by Antigua on account of the St. John's Savings Bank Loan, and the Water Works Loan.

11. The following table shows the amount of the loans raised and the sums standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds at the 31st March, 1912:—

Presidency.	Total amount of loans raised.	Amount to credit of Sinking Fund.
	£	£
Antigua	123,700	40,123
St. Kitts-Nevis	67,250	18,516
Dominica	65,000	19,132
Montserrat	11,100	2,815
Total	£267,050	£80,586

MUNICIPALITIES.

12. The Government of the City of Saint John, Antigua, is vested in five Commissioners, under the control of the Governor in Executive Council. Two of the Commissioners must be persons not holding any office of emolument under Crown.

There is also a Town Committee in Basseterre, St. Kitts, and a Town Board in Roseau, Dominica.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

13. The total value of imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1911, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £688,689, as against £531,713 in 1910, being an increase of £156,976.

14. The total value of the exports, exclusive of internal trade, was £546,469, as against £537,832 in 1910, showing an increase of £8,637.

15. The following tables exhibit the value of the imports and exports during the last five years, exclusive of internal trade:—

Imports.

Year.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1907... ...	164,587	178,556	125,643	24,195	7,009	499,990
1908... ...	175,587	184,002	150,651	28,195	8,315	546,750
1909... ...	139,496	171,939	124,685	27,524	7,382	471,026
1910... ...	170,033	192,541	140,925	29,718	8,496	541,713
1911... ...	181,331	302,865	161,101	34,166	9,226	688,689
Total ...	831,034	1,029,903	703,005	143,798	40,428	2,748,168

Exports.

Year.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1907... ...	172,410	185,727	122,697	30,076	5,951	516,861
1908... ...	179,106	180,539	109,393	41,434	6,995	517,467
1909... ...	114,122	172,659	100,018	26,550	7,451	420,800
1910... ...	196,184	195,506	109,529	30,003	6,610	537,832
1911... ...	161,064	203,166	122,365	51,198	8,676	546,469
Total ...	822,886	937,597	564,002	179,261	35,683	2,539,429

Imports and Exports.

Year.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1907 ...	336,997	364,283	248,340	54,271	12,960	1,016,851
1908 ...	354,693	364,541	260,044	69,629	15,310	1,064,217
1909 ...	253,618	344,598	224,703	54,074	14,833	891,826
1910 ...	366,217	388,047	250,454	59,721	15,106	1,079,545
1911 ...	342,395	506,031	283,466	85,364	17,902	1,235,158
Total ...	1,653,920	1,967,500	1,267,007	323,059	76,111	5,287,597

IMPORTS.

16. The following table exhibits the value of the imports for each of the last five years, distinguishing the countries whence the imports came, and showing the increase or decrease in 1911 as compared with 1910:—

Country whence imported.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	Increase 1911 over 1910.	Decrease 1911 under 1910.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	231,018	225,773	183,426	229,193	334,945	105,752	—
British Colonies ...	74,844	99,976	81,608	102,733	122,330	19,592	—
United States of America.	177,282	201,350	190,107	191,148	208,253	17,105	—
Other Foreign Countries.	16,846	19,651	15,885	18,634	23,161	4,527	—
Total	499,990	546,750	471,026	541,713	688,689	146,976	—

EXPORTS.

17. The value of the exports during each of the last five years, distinguishing the countries to which the exports were sent, and showing the increase or decrease in 1911, as compared with 1910, is shown in the following tables:—

Countries to which Exported.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	Increase 1911 over 1910.	Decrease 1911 under 1910.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom...	214,857	159,161	147,318	188,984	217,696	28,712	—
British Colonies ...	236,670	261,529	202,086	271,020	239,649	—	31,371
United States of America.	45,700	72,245	38,287	43,462	69,974	26,512	—
Other Foreign Countries.	29,634	24,532	33,109	34,366	19,150	—	15,216
Total... ...	526,861	517,467	420,800	537,832	546,469	55,224	46,587

18. The value of the trade between the Presidencies for the years 1907 to 1911 was as under:—

Year.	Value.
	£
1907	17,434
1908	20,843
1909	35,295
1910	45,636
1911	45,010

Sugar.

19. The quantity of sugar exported from each Presidency during the years 1907 to 1911 is shown below:—

Presidency.		1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua ...	...	13,972	12,501	8,619	13,488	11,025
St. Kitts-Nevis	...	14,132	10,986	11,621	12,330	11,130
Dominica ...	...	107	24	—	—	—
Montserrat ...	...	207	60	38	190	73½
Virgin Islands	...	1	1	—	—	—
Total	...	28,419	23,572	20,278	26,008	22,228½

Cotton.

20. The following is a return of cotton exported from the Presidencies of Antigua (including Barbuda), St. Kitts-Nevis (including Anguilla), Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands, during the years 1907-11, and to the 31st March, 1912:—

Presidency.	1907.		1908.		1909.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£
Antigua	191,220	17,479	178,100	12,983	59,560	3,248
St. Kitts-Nevis...	464,445	39,067	459,309	33,002	404,058	23,970
Montserrat ...	219,280	17,620	391,068	28,371	202,542	11,882
Virgin Islands ...	10,033	544	32,520	1,992	52,528	2,531
Total ...	884,978	74,710	1,060,997	76,348	718,688	41,631

Presidency.	1910.		1911.		To 31st March, 1912.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£
Antigua	59,584	4,403	96,992	6,795	47,726	2,983
St. Kitts-Nevis...	392,039	29,403	782,993	55,013	260,646	16,833
Montserrat ...	209,308	15,698	544,607	38,693	107,053	6,794
Virgin Islands ...	27,589	1,713	50,423	3,389	22,464	1,404
Total ...	688,520	51,217	1,475,015	103,890	437,889	28,014

MANUFACTURES, MINES, AND FISHERIES.

21. Sugar is the principal manufacture in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis. In St. Kitts the distilling of r is of some importance.

The staple in Dominica and Montserrat is lime juice. T production of citrate of lime in those islands is being developed.

There is a sulphur mine at Soufrière, in Dominica, but it is not worked at present. Phosphate of lime is found in Barbuda, and phosphate of alumina in Redonda.

22. There is no recognised fishing industry in the Colony. Fish are caught for local consumption only, except in the Virgin Islands, whence large quantities are exported to the neighbouring Danish Island of St. Thomas.

The principal fish caught are kingfish, barracouta, margate, snapper, and cavally. Lobsters are also plentiful.

Sea fishing with rod and reel, as a pastime, has been introduced with considerable success, especially in the waters of Antigua. A spoon-bait is most generally used. Many tarpon have been taken by rod and reel off Barbuda.

Agricultural Industries during 1911.*

23. *Sugar.*—The Sugar crop of Antigua for the year 1911 amounted to 11,079 tons, of which 6,414 tons were grey crystals and 4,665 tons muscavado.

That of St. Kitts during the same period was 11,456 tons, of which 199 tons were crystals and 11,257 tons muscovado.

In Antigua the season was one of exceptional dryness, and to this the relative smallness of the return must be attributed.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in reaping the crop in some instances, owing to shortness of water supply. Peasant canes were purchased by the two central factories to the amount of 3,212 tons in the case of Gunthorpes, and 4,102 tons in the case of Bendals Factory.

The contract under which the grant in aid of the construction of Bendals Factory was made by the Imperial Government was fulfilled during the year, the total amount of peasant's cane required having been purchased, in accordance with the terms of the original agreement.

The operations of Gunthorpe's Factory were extended so as to include a number of additional estates during the year, the capacity of the factory having been considerably enlarged during the previous year.

In St. Kitts weather conditions were more favourable, and a fair return was experienced.

24. The year 1911 was remarkable for the erection of a central factory in the Basseterre Valley. The undertaking was promoted by Messrs. Henckell Du Buisson and Company, who were responsible for the inauguration of Gunthorpe's Factory, Antigua. The cane supply is at present derived from estates in the Basseterre Valley and on the Leeward Coast. Further extensions to include estates on the Windward Coast are in process of being carried out. The factory was opened on February 20th.

25. *Cotton.*—A fairly successful year has been recorded in the cotton industry, though the yields per acre were on the whole smaller than in 1909-10 and 1910-11.

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* By H. A. Tempany, Esq., B.Sc., F.I.C., F.C.S., Superintendent of Agriculture, Leeward Islands.

The exports of cotton from each Presidency in 1909-10 and 1910-11 are given below:—

	1909-10. lbs.	1910-11. lbs.
Antigua and Barbuda ...	59,960	96,992
St. Kitts	231,150	329,322
Nevis	129,963	343,395
Anguilla	43,400	148,595
Montserrat	202,542	402,666
Virgin Islands	23,139	50,337
	690,154	1,371,307

The figures for 1911-12 have not yet been completed.

26. *Limes.*—In Montserrat, lime plantations suffered somewhat severely from scale insect attacks and other plant diseases during the year. The total exports of lime products during 1911 was valued at £41,665. They included citrate of lime, concentrated and raw lime juice, essential oils, and green limes.

In Antigua interest in lime cultivation continues to increase, and considerable areas were planted under the crop during the year. The extensions are mainly confined to the southern end of the Island. The exports of lime products during 1911 were valued at £1,440.

There is a small but increasing area under young limes in Nevis, while efforts are being made to foster a peasant lime growing industry in Tortola.

27. *Coconuts.*—There are about 200 acres planted in coconuts in Nevis, and the area is increasing; the trees vary in age from 1 to 4½ years. Interest in this crop is also increasing in Antigua, and the area under the crop is extending yearly. At the present time there are about 200 acres planted in coconuts in the southern portion of the Island.

LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

28. The value of land in the Colony varies in accordance with its suitability for the cultivation of sugar-cane or other products. In Dominica Crown lands can be purchased at 10*s.* an acre. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane-growing land varies from £4 to £8 an acre.

In Antigua there are over 2,000 acres of land at Piccadilly, Red Hill, and the Ridge, on which there is much valuable timber. In the event of the erection of a sugar factory in that district favourable sections of these lands will doubtless be taken up for the cultivation of sugar-cane.

SHIPPING.

29. Comparing the figures with those for the year 1910, there was an increase of 36,753 tons in steam vessels and an increase of 4,819 tons in sailing vessels entered and cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1911.

The following table shows the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in each Presidency during each of the last five years, including both steam and sailing vessels, and the increase or decrease in 1911 as compared with 1910:—

Presidency.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	Increase 1911 over 1910.	Decrease 1911 under 1910.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua .	567,678	722,862	643,966	644,705	679,048	34,343	—
St. Kitts Nevis	620,435	638,961	593,942	625,636	685,852	60,216	—
Dominica ...	508,631	746,640	713,227	694,985	642,809	—	52,176
Montserrat ...	509,778	384,472	362,158	360,226	359,554	—	672
Virgin Islands	13,796	14,422	12,853	12,770	12,631	—	139
Total ...	2,020,318	2,507,357	2,326,146	2,338,322	2,379,894	94,559	52,987

III.—LEGISLATION.

30. Twelve Federal Acts and thirty Presidential Ordinances were passed during the year 1911, none of which call for any special remark.

IV.—EDUCATION.

31. The number of children on the registers of the Government and grant-aided schools in the Colony during the year 1911-12 was 24,243, as against 24,573 in the year 1910-11. The average daily attendance was 11,785, as against 12,082 for the previous year.

The following table exhibits the number of children on the registers and the average attendance in the elementary schools of the several Presidencies or islands of the Colony, together with the percentage of those registered in the whole Colony who were in average attendance, during the last five years:—

Presidency or Island.	On Registers.				
	1907-8.	1908-9.	1909-10.	1910-11.	1911-12.
Antigua	6,582	6,747	6,677	6,549	6,561
St. Kitts with Anguilla ...	6,421	6,235	6,355	6,044	5,674
Nevis	2,679	2,656	2,899	2,987	3,094
Dominica	4,505	4,189	4,438	4,816	5,163
Montserrat	3,158	3,000	3,190	3,239	3,163
Virgin Islands	654	854	915	938	588
Total	23,999	23,681	24,474	24,573	24,243

Presidency or Island.	Average Attendance.				
	1907–8.	1908–9.	1909–10.	1910–11.	1911–12.
Antigua	3,027	3,040	3,422	3,337	3,335
St. Kitts with Anguilla ...	2,637	2,704	2,728	2,692	2,478
Nevis	1,276	1,389	1,356	1,519	1,445
Dominica	1,981	1,763	2,014	2,357	2,502
Montserrat	1,474	1,452	1,596	1,693	1,718
Virgin Islands	302	350	471	484	307
Total	10,697	10,698	11,587	12,082	11,785
Per cent. for whole Colony ...	44·6	45·1	47·3	49·1	48·6

32. The following table gives the percentage of children on the rolls in average attendance during the year 1911-12, as compared with the average attendance in 1910-11:—

Presidency or Island.	Percentage in Average Attendance. 1910-11.		Percentage in Average Attendance. 1911-12.
Colony	49·1	...	48·6
Antigua	50·6	...	50·8
St. Kitts with Anguilla	44·5	...	43·6
Nevis	50·8	...	46·7
Dominica	48·9	...	48·4
Montserrat	52·2	...	54·3
Virgin Islands ...	51·6	...	52·2

33. The cost of elementary education was derived from the sources shown below:—

—	School Fees.	Government Grant.	Voluntary Contribution.
	£	£	£
Antigua	30	1,494	192
St. Kitts with Anguilla ...	—	1,463	136
Nevis	—	729	121
Dominica	—	2,328	—
Montserrat	—	667	82
Virgin Islands	18	198	52
Total	48	6,879	583

34. The following list of the secondary schools of the Colony shows the amount granted in 1911-12 from local funds in aid of such schools:—

	£
Antigua Grammar School(¹)	400
Antigua Girls' High School(²)	125
Thomas Oliver Robinson Memorial School, Antigua	25
St. Kitts Grammar School(³)	703
Miss Wattley's School, St. Kitts(⁴)	115
Miss Bridgewater's School, Nevis(⁵)	74
Dominica Grammar School(⁶)	456

35. The sum of £150 was granted from Federal funds in aid of the Moravian Training College for Females, Antigua, and the sum of £60 was provided for the training of six male students at the Mico College, Jamaica, three of whom are selected annually after open competition at the pupil teachers' examination.

The following grants-in-aid were contributed from Imperial funds:—

	£
Antigua Grammar School—	
Scholarships	70
St. Kitts Grammar School—	
Scholarships	90
Dominica Agricultural School—	
Salaries and wages	24
General maintenance	275
Total	£459

ST. JOHN'S TRAINING SCHOOL.

36. There is one industrial school in the Colony, viz., the St. John's Training School in Antigua, established under the provisions of Leeward Islands Act, No. 4, of 1891, for the reformation, education, and training of persons under 18 years of age. The number of boys in the school on the 1st April, 1911, was 53.

The daily average for the year of the boys admitted from the several Presidencies compared with the previous year was as follows:—

	1910-11.	1911-12.
Antigua	27·5	30·2
St. Kitts-Nevis	14·5	14·3
Dominica	7·0	6·0
Montserrat	1·0	2·7
Virgin Islands	1·0	1·0
Total	51·0	54·2

(¹) Includes £50 for scholarships of £10 each.
(²) " £25 " " " £5 "
(³) " £150 " agricultural and science master who is also attached to Agricultural School; also £246 school fees repaid to the head master.
(⁴) Includes £40 for scholarships of £8 each.
(⁵) " £24 " " " "
(⁶) " £33 6*s*. 8*d*. for scholarships.

The health of the school was very satisfactory. The boys were employed, as in former years, in agricultural and garden work, in addition to the various duties concerned with the indoor department of the school.

The Presidencies contribute at the rate of £10 a year for each boy sent to the school.

The revenue from all sources amounted to £347, and the expenditure (including pensions, £112, and the estimated value of the rent of the school and Chief Officer's quarters, £70) to £786.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

37. In the year 1911, 2,636 patients, as against 2,496 for the previous year, were admitted into the hospitals of the Colony. There were 348 deaths, as against 308 for 1910.

38. There is a central lunatic asylum in Antigua. On the 1st January, 1911, there were 113 inmates (52 males and 61 females); 46 (23 males and 23 females) were admitted; 27 (8 males and 19 females) were discharged as cured; and 11 (5 males and 6 females) died.

39. There are two leper asylums in the Colony; one at Rat Island in Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles in St. Kitts.

In Antigua there were 31 lepers (12 males and 19 females) at the beginning of the year; 3 males and 2 females were admitted during the year, and 3 females died.

There is no record in Antigua of any attendant at the asylum having contracted leprosy.

40. The number of inmates in the Antigue poor house on the 1st January, 1911, was 96 (29 males and 67 females); 54 inmates were admitted during the year and 25 discharged.

The number of persons who received outdoor relief in the Colony during 1911 was as follows:—Antigua, 401; St. Kitts, 1,000; Nevis, 600; Dominica, 147; Montserrat, 93; and the Virgin Islands, 69.

41. The Alexandra Cottage Home for Incurables in Dominica, supported partly by voluntary contributions, maintained, on an average, 10 paupers.

St. John's Training School in Antigua has been dealt with under Part IV., Education.

42. The number of depositors in the savings bank and the amounts at their credit on the 31st March, 1912, are noted below:—

Presidency.	No. of Depositors.	Amount at Credit. £
Antigua	2,015	44,244
St. Kitts-Nevis	807	25,951
Dominica	831	15,403
Montserrat	227	4,676
Virgin Islands	99	706
Total	3,979	£90,980

The following table shows the number of depositors and the amounts deposited and withdrawn in the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Deposited.	Withdrawn.
		£	£
1907	3,533	36,666	27,777
1908	3,473	33,550	32,492
1909	3,581	32,388	32,220
1910	3,782	33,845	29,636
1911	3,979	39,979	35,492

The total amount of invested funds is £92,165.

The revenue amounted to £3,007, and the expenditure to £2,532.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

43. The total number of persons in the Colony committed to prison during the year 1911 was 947 (506 males, 413 females, and 28 juveniles).

The number of committals in Antigua was 256, as against 210 in 1910.

The number of prisoners transferred from the other Presidencies to the Central Prison, Antigua, was as under:—

Presidency.	Males.	Females.	Total.
St. Kitts-Nevis	8	1	9
Dominica	5	1	6
Montserrat	2	—	2
Virgin Islands...	—	—	—
Total	15	2	17

44. The prisoners were employed in the usual service of the prison, such as in cooking for the prisoners and the boys at the training school; cleaning; washing; making and mending clothing and bedding for the prison and the training school; baking bread for the prison, hospital, poor house, lunatic and leper asylums, and training school; also in quarrying and stone-breaking, smithy work, masonry, and carpentry. The annual cost of the maintenance of each prisoner to Antigua was at the rate of £20 18*s*. 8*d*.

45. The following table gives the total number of offences

reported during each of the last four years, together with the convictions and acquittals in each year:—

Year.	Offences reported.	Convicted.	Acquitted.
1908	10,158	6,178	6,999
1909	11,120	7,067	7,958
1910	3,140	6,802	5,473
1911	3,770	7,170	7,559

3,770 cases were reported to the police, while 14,771 persons were brought before the magistrates. The number of summary convictions was 7,170.

The number of convictions in the Superior Courts was 33. 7,541 persons were acquitted in the Inferior Courts and 18 in the Superior Courts.

46. *Comparative Table showing the number of Offences, Apprehensions, and Acquittals, for the last Five Years.*

—	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
The number of offences reported to the Police.	10,697	10,158	11,120	3,140	3,770
The number of persons brought before the Magistrate.	13,887	13,243	15,046	13,458	14,771
The number of summary convictions:—					
1. Offences against property with violence to the person.	—	—	—	—	—
2. Offences against property ...	760	785	791	632	651
3. Other offences against the person	1,324	1,501	946	1,035	1,356
4. Other offences	4,332	3,892	5,330	5,135	5,163
Total	6,416	6,178	7,067	6,802	7,170
The number of convictions in the Superior Courts:—					
1. Homicide	—	—	3	—	2
2. Offences against property with violence not amounting to homicide.	—	—	—	—	1
3. Other offences against property...	15	32	15	19	16
4. Other offences against the person	7	12	9	9	11
5. Other offences	4	6	3	11	3
Total	26	50	30	39	33
The number of persons acquitted:—					
1. In the Inferior Courts	7,443	6,986	7,939	5,450	7,541
2. In the Superior Courts	16	13	19	23	18
Total	7,459	6,999	7,958	5,473	7,559

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

47. The total population of the Colony, according to the census of 1911, was 127,193 distributed as follows:—

Island.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Antigua	13,634	17,760	31,394
Barbuda	351	520	871
St. Kitts	10,969	15,314	26,283
Nevis	5,521	7,424	12,945
Anguilla	1,562	2,513	4,075
Dominica	15,231	18,632	33,863
Montserrat	5,245	6,951	12,196
Redonda	4	—	4
Virgin Islands...	2,613	2,949	5,562
Total	55,130	72,063	127 193

METEOROLOGICAL.

48. The average rainfall in Antigua from January to December, 1911, on 72 stations, was 36·47 inches.

The average rainfall for the 38 years 1874 to 1911 was 44·80 inches, so that the preciptation for the year under review was 8·33 inches below the average.

The highest rainfall recorded was in 1889, when there were 73·59 inches, and the lowest in 1875, with 28·78 inches.

The highest maximum temperature was 89° on July 30th, and 7th, 15th, and 17th August.

The lowest minimum temperature was 67° on February 14th.

Six earthquakes were recorded, viz. on February 4th and 7th, March 2nd, October 1st, November 7th, and December 10th.

54·47 inches of rain were recorded at the Botanic Station, Montserrat. There are no records available for the other Presidencies.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

49. British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the following lines:—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (fort nightly), the East Asiatic Company (once a month), the Quebec Steamship Company (about twice a month), and the Pickford and Black Steamship Company (twice a month).

The mails are taken between Tortola and St. Thomas and between Tortola and Virgin Gorda, by a sloop belonging to the Government, and by private boats, as follows:—

> From Tortola to St. Thomas about four times a week; and from Tortola to Virgin Gorda, about six times a month.

There is a daily mail service by sailing boat between St. Kitts and Nevis, and a fortnightly mail service by sailing boat between

St. Kitts and Anguilla. A sloop is also subsidized by the Government of Monserrat to take mails and passengers between that Presidency, Antigua, and St. Kitts.

50. Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other, the other West Indian Colonies, Europe, and America by the cables of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company. There is no communication by telegraph with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands. St. Kitts is in heliographic communication with Nevis.

Telephone services have been established in Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica.

51. The following statement shows the volume of the transactions of the Colony in postal matter during the last five years:—

Year.	Letters and cards received and sent.	Books and papers received and sent.	Parcels received and sent.
1907	606,935	216,700	11,043
1908	671,821	219,776	11,680
1909	671,471	222,440	12,280
1910	693,417	228,762	13,626
1911	749,904	220,487	14,395

52. The total value of money orders issued in the Colony was £23,013, as against £26,785 in 1910, and the total value of the orders paid was £25,740, as against £27,113 in the previous year. The money order transactions were distributed between the Presidencies as follows—those for St. Kitts and Nevis being shown in the case of each Island:—

	Money Orders Issued.	Money Orders Paid.
	£	£
Antigua	5,322	6,099
St. Kitts	3,940	6,799
Nevis	2,060	3,146
Dominica	5,980	2,250
Montserrat	3,324	5,071
Virgin Islands	2,387	2,375
	£23,013	£25,740

53. The net profit on the working of the Post Offices of the Colony was £2,137, as against £2,904 in 1910.

54. In Antigua there are 168 telephone instruments in use and 300 miles of wire; in St. Kitts, 115 instruments and 265 miles of wire; and in Dominica 95 instruments and 425 miles of wire.

The receipts and expenditure in connection with the telephone service of the Colony during the year under review were as under:—

Presidency.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
Antigua	858	804
St. Kitts	577	630
Dominica	489	1,057

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

55. The Coronation of Their Majesties the King and Queen was celebrated throughout the Presidencies of the Colony, and the public rejoicings on the occasion were marked by conspicuous enthusiasm and loyalty. The general community of the Leeward Islands was represented at the solemnity in Westminster Abbey by the Hon. J. F. Foote and the Hon. B. S. Davis. In response to the cordial invitation of His Majesty's Government which had been conveyed to the Governor at the wish of His Majesty the King, contingents of the Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis Defence Forces proceeded to England and took part in the Coronation celebrations in London.

56. The census of the Colony was taken on the night of the 2nd April, 1911. The total population of Antigua and its Dependencies of Barbuda and Redonda on that date was 32,269 as against 35,073 in 1901. There had, therefore, been a decrease of 2,804, or 8 per cent., and, as compared with the census of 1891, of 4,550 or 12·4 per cent.

The population of St. Kitts-Nevis was 43,303, showing a decrease of 3,143 in respect of the previous decennial period.

In Dominica, whereas the population of the Presidency in 1901 was 26,894, in 1911 it was 33,863, having increased 17·19 per cent.

The population of Montserrat in 1901 was 12,215. In 1911 it was 12,196. The increase by natural increment, however, during the ten years in question, was 2,005.

In the Virgin Islands, the population rose from 4,908 to 5,562.

The decrease in population, where it has occurred, is to be accounted for by emigration to the Canal Zone, the United States, Costa Rica, and San Domingo.

57. The Conference which had been convened for the purpose of discussing the question of reciprocity in trade relations between the Dominion of Canada and the West Indian Colonies began its sittings at Ottawa towards the end of March, 1912. The delegates from the Leeward Islands were as follows:—Antigua, the Hon. W. D. Auchinleck, I.S.O., Auditor General (accompanied by the Hon. J. J. Camacho, Senior Unofficial Member of the Executive Councils of the Leeward Islands and of Antigua, in an advisory capacity); St. Kitts-Nevis, His Honour T. Laurence Roxburgh, C.M.G., Administrator; Dominica, the Honourable W. H. Porter, I.S.O., Treasurer (with the Honourable Colin MacIntyre as adviser); Montserrat, His Honour Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Davidson-Houston, C.M.G., Commissioner. An agree-

ment was signed on the 9th April last which provides, in the words of Mr. Foster, the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce, for exchange of products on a wide and generous scale and is based on a preference to the products of each country in the markets of the other. It is confidently hoped that the agreement will result in a development of commercial activity and a strengthening of the ties of kinship beween Canada and the West Indies which should be of mutual benefit to the Dominion and the participating Colonies.

58. The Conference afforded a unique opportunity, of which full advantage was taken, to discuss two questions intimately related to, though not forming part of, the negotiations at Ottawa. The desirability of improving the cable communication and the steamship service between Canada and the West Indies received careful consideration. The views of the Conference on those important questions were embodied in resolutions to which there was no dissentient voice. The objects aimed at are the establishment of adequate cable and steamship connections based on the co-operation of the Imperial Government, the Dominion of Canada, and the West Indian Colonies. Both Canada and the West Indies, it will be seen, are fully alive to the importance of improving those services as a natural sequence to the settlement of reciprocal trade relations.

59. The expenditure of the Federal Government was estimated at £11,797 1*s*. 6*d*. apportionable as follows:—

	£	*s*.	*d*.
Against Antigua	3,525	16	7
,, St. Kitts-Nevis	3,650	14	7
,, Dominica	2,980	12	7
,, Montserrat	794	19	10
,, Virgin Islands	124	17	11
	11,077	1	6
,, Imperial funds	590	0	0
Revenue receivable in diminution of Presidential contributions	130	0	0
	£11,797	1	6

The actual expenditure of the year was £11,783 17*s*. 9*d*., chargeable as follows:—

	£	*s*.	*d*.
Against Presidential contributions	10,629	11	3
,, Imperial funds	827	14	5
Miscellaneous revenue applied towards reduction of contributions	326	12	1
	£11,783	17	9

60. On the 31st December, 1911, the surplus of the assets over the liabilities of the five Presidencies of the Colony amounted to £[illegible],493, the total being made up as follows:—

	£
Antigua (including Barbuda, £1,571) ...	8,681
St. Kitts-Nevis	26,599
Dominica	23,169
Montserrat	12,544
Virgin Islands	1,500
	£72,493

In the assets of Antigua the sum of £1,000, representing the unexpended balances of Imperial grants in aid of revenue, has not been included.

61. Ten years ago—on the 31st March, 1902—the excess of the assets of the Colony over its liabilities amounted only to £3,890. On that date the liabilities of both Antigua and Montserrat were in excess of their assets. The net result was due to the solvency of St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica (the accounts of which Presidency showed a surplus of £5,399), and the Virgin Islands.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

62. The Governor, Sir Bickham Sweet Escott, K.C.M.G., was on leave of absence from the 24th July, 1911, to the 31st January, 1912, during which time the Government was administered by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. H. E. W. Grant, C.M.G. On the 15th April, 1912, His Excellency left the Islands on appointment to be Governor of the Colony of Fiji and High Commissioner for the Western Pacific. On his departure, Mr. Grant again had charge of the administration until the 19th July last, the date of the arrival of His Excellency Sir H. Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G., whose appointment to be Governor of the Leeward Islands had been announced in March.

63. In October, 1911, Mr. J. S. Udal retired from the office of Chief Justice and was succeeded by Sir F. M. Maxwell, the Chief Justice of British Honduras. Pending the arrival of Sir Frederic Maxwell, Mr. Justice F. H. Parker, the First Puisne Judge, acted as Chief Justice.

ANTIGUA.

64. The revenue of Antigua in 1911-12, exclusive of Imperial Grants in Aid of the Agricultural Department, was £52,292 6*s*. 11*d*., and exceeded the estimates by £1,505 6*s*. 11*d*.

Excepting in 1910-11, when the revenue was £52,325 17*s*. 6*d*., the receipts of last year were largely in excess of previous years, and exceeded the average of the seven years ending 1909-10 by £5,684.

65. The total expenditure from local funds was £156 over that of the previous year, and exceeded the estimates of the year by £1,872.

Expenditure on the Agricultural Department from Imperial grants was £558, or £90 more than estimated.

The total expenditure of the Public Works Department was £7,815, as against £8,657 in 1910-11.

66. The sum of £2,500 was provided for the maintenance of roads, streets, and bridges. It was not possible, however, with this amount to do more than maintain the roads in a fair state of repair and carry out pressing improvements.

The private road on Otto's Estate, adjoining St. John's, was transferred by the Honourable J. J. Camacho to the Government, and has been named "Camacho Avenue."

Shortly before his departure from the Colony, Sir Bickham Sweet Escott created an Advisory Road Board, consisting of the Governor as Chairman, the Colonial Secretary, the Surveyor of Works, and six members representing the six parishes of the Island, with the Clerk to the Surveyor of Works as Secretary.

67. Owing to the long continued drought the reservoir at Wallings ceased to supply the country districts with water in December, 1911, and the rainfall up to the present date (October, 1912) has not been sufficient to permit of a resumption of the service. The distress was relieved by sinking new wells, also by the deepening and cleaning of existing wells and springs.

68. Some of the vaults and tombs in the naval and military cemeteries at English Harbour and the Ridge were repaired and renovated.

The new building at the hospital, which is to be known as the "Sweet Escott wing," was completed. It is capable of accommodating eighty beds.

BARBUDA.

69. The revenue of Barbuda for 1911-12 was £2,681, as against £2,317 for the year 1910-11, and the expenditure £2,213, as against £1,385. The surplus funds on the 1st April, 1912, amounted to £1,832 1*s.* 2*d.*

The shipment of cotton during 1911-12 amounted to 250 bales, which realised £1,581. Thirty-nine tons of cotton seed remained to be sold.

70. The breeding of horses, cattle, and mules by the Government continued to receive attention. In September, 1911, one stallion and six mares were imported from Canada. The animals are now quite acclimatised and the infusion of new blood will doubtless tend to improve the breeding of horses in the Island.

The mules throve well. They showed no ill effect from the drought of 1910. It was otherwise with the horses and cattle. The sale of stock in 1911 realised about £227.

The stock enclosures were extended, additional pasture lands cleared, and new grasses introduced. "Guinea grass" was planted out in several localities.

The villagers own a considerable number of horses, mules, donkeys, and sheep. A bye-law, No. 2 of 1911, made it illegal to keep goats on the Island after the 31st March, 1912.

71. Excellent tarpon and other sea fishing may be had; also good shooting. Deer abound, and wild pig, guinea fowl, pigeon, and duck are plentiful. The deer-stalking seasons are from the 1st January to 31st March, and 1st July to 30th September.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.*

72. In last year's report it was pointed out that the revenue for the period then under review, 1910-11, was the largest that had been collected in the Presidency as it is now constituted. That record, however, has been surpassed in 1911-12 when the revenue reached the large total of £58,002, being £5,254 more than was realised in the previous year, and no less than £8,722 more than was estimated.

73. The reasons for this large revenue are not far to seek, and it is necessary to recognise at once that abnormal conditions prevailed and that it must not be expected that equally large receipts will be realised in future. If the figures are referred to it will be seen that practically the whole increase is to be attributed to customs duties, which exceeded those of the previous year by £4,684. This is due, in the first place, to the large importations of materials of various sorts made by the recently established Central Sugar Factory, for although a large proportion of the company's imports is free under the existing tariff a considerable proportion is liable to duty. Again, the employment by the factory company of a large number of labourers for the construction of their factory and lines of railway has thrown large sums of money into circulation. Much of this finds its way into the shops, and the importations therefore both of dry goods and provisions have increased in order that the improved demand may be met. The company's importations for construction have now ceased and the greater part of their railway is completed.

While, therefore, it may confidently be hoped that the existence of the factory will have a beneficial effect on the prosperity of the people in the south-eastern part of the Island and consequently upon the public revenue, it must not be expected that future years will show so large a revenue unless some other special cause should arise such as has existed in the year just past. It may be mentioned here that a considerable amount of the money in circulation is sent here by natives of the Presidency who have prospered in America or elsewhere and who remit a part of their earnings for the assistance of their less prosperous relatives whom they have left at home.

74. The expenditure during 1911-12 was £864 more than during the preceding year. It amounted to £50,736, and exceeded the original estimate for the year by a few pounds only. The figures present no features calling for special remark. The total includes expenditure on public works which it had been proposed to pay for from surplus balances, but this cost has really been met from the revenue of the year, and no investments or deposits have been disturbed. The difference between the revenue and expenditure has added to the surplus funds of the Presidency the appreciable sum of £7,266 and has raised the total surplus

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* By His Honour T. Laurence Roxburgh, Esq., C.M.G., Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis.

to £26,632. Whether the great prosperity of the past year should continue or not, the transactions of the period have at least furnished the Government with the means of carrying out some useful improvements.

75. The value of imports increased from £195,277 in 1910 to £306,666 in 1911. As has been observed in regard to the revenue, this must be regarded as abnormal, the increase being due to the importations of the Central Sugar Factory Company for construction purposes. The bulk of the increase was in respect of goods from Great Britain, the figures being £165,316 in 1911, as against £70,737 in 1910. The colonies and foreign countries have, however, also shared in the improvement.

76. The value of exports of the Presidency during 1911 rose from £205,693, in the previous year, to £212,481. Again the United Kingdom shows the largest increase in amount, though not in proportion, for while the value of exports to the United Kingdom rose from £78,452 in 1910 to £98,624 in 1911, the value of the exports to the United States rose from £4,023 to £9,547. The exports to Canada fell off considerably, viz., from a value of £94,231 in 1910 to £77,487 in 1911.

77. The increased output of cotton, as shown in the following tables, accounts for the larger exports to the United Kingdom, while the larger output of salt accounts to a considerable extent for the increased export to the United States of America.

78. The smaller output of sugar is responsible for a large proportion of the reduced export to Canada, as nearly all the sugar made here goes to the Dominion.

	Exports. 1910. £	Exports. 1911. £
To United Kingdom ...	78,452	98,624
To British Colonies... ...	107,118	91,750
To Foreign Countries ...	20,123	22,750
	£205,693	£212,481

—	Exports of—				
	Sugar.	Cotton.	Molasses.	Rum.	Salt.
	Tons.	lbs.	Puncheons.	Galls.	Barrels.
1910	12,323	392,039	2,521	18,489	920
1911	11,130	782,993	2,339	19,380	7,006

79. The return of shipping for the past year is also highly satisfactory, as shown by the following table:—

—	Shipping.		
	Tonnage. British ships Entered and Cleared.	Tonnage. Foreign ships Entered and Cleared.	Total.
1910	557,897	67,739	625,636
1911	606,292	79,560	685,852

80. No public works of any magnitude have been constructed during the year. In St. Kitts, with the exception of a useful shed for the protection of goods landed at the piers, no new buildings have been erected, but much useful work has been done in the way of repairing existing structures, restoring mason work, and generally improving public property. The new pier at Nevis, to which reference was made in last year's report, has been completed. It is not only a strong durable structure but is better equipped than the old one which it has replaced. The new official residence in the same Island was completed during the year and has been furnished. Although not architecturally beautiful it is a fine solid structure and very comfortable. The lawns and grounds are being gradually put in order. Trees have been planted to relieve the present bareness, and hedges of the famous *pithycolobium anguiscati* or "bread and cheese" have been started.

81. A new police station of a substantial character and attractive appearance has been built at Newcastle, Nevis, and is quite a model building for the purpose.

82. In Anguilla a revenue office and residence for the Customs officer has been built at "The Forest." This is another handsome stone building and replaces a tumble-down wooden hut which was a standing discredit to the Island. The maintenance of the public roads has been rendered more difficult and expensive by the scarcity of labour. This question of labour has now become somewhat acute, but it may be hoped that when the demand created by work at the Sugar Factory Company's buildings and railway has ceased the supply for agricultural and other purposes will improve.

83. The emigration of persons of the servant class to the United States and Canada continues and is causing much inconvenience here.

84. During the year an important Ordinance was passed for the governance of the hospitals of the Presidency, of which there are three. Other Ordinances provided for the establishment of a law library, for the better order of towns and villages, and for the regulation of labour emigration, respectively.

85. There has been, as usual, comparative freedom from serious crime, but it is to be regretted that there was a case of murder in Nevis—the first for many years. Petty offences have been somewhat more numerous, but the increase is not such as to justify any idea of a lessened regard for law and order.

86. The patriotism of the people of these Islands and their devotion to the Throne were evinced in a remarkable degree when the Coronation of His Majesty the King was celebrated in June, 1911. There was great enthusiasm and even an exuberance of loyalty in each of the three Islands, but the regard for order and respect for authority were abundantly manifest. During the two days the festivities lasted it was not necessary to make a single arrest.

Dominica.*

87. *Limes.*—The crop for 1911 was 355,000 barrels of fruit, a decrease, when compared with that of 1910, of 14,000 barrels. If the great increase of the crop of 1910 over that of 1909 is considered, the position during 1911 was not unsatisfactory.

88. The rainfall was again heavy and this, following the wet year of 1910, has emphasized the need of better drainage in fields in wet localities. A certain amount of root disease was prevalent, which is largely the result of saturated soils and also of lack of good management in the fields, whereby the stems of the trees stand in the centre of depressions caused by the weeders being allowed to draw the surface soil under the branches of the tree outwards. Where the latter conditions exist, the base of the stem is submerged during long spells of wet weather and collar rot and root disease follow. There would be surprisingly little root disease amongst established cultivations in the Island if more attention were paid to drainage and the formation of depressions around the trunks of lime trees prevented. Amongst young cultivations in newly opened forest land a certain amount of root disease exists for a few years owing to infection from the decaying roots of forest trees.

89. The damp weather was very favourable to the development of fungus parasites which throve with great vigour and effectively controlled scale insects. That lime cultivation is so successfully carried on in Dominica is due in a large measure to the activities of the four species of fungus which are known to attack the several species of scale insects that affect citrus trees.

90. The market price for concentrated lime juice and citrate of lime continued to be satisfactory.

The business in shipping green limes was very active, the increase of shipments this year being at a much greater rate than during any previous period. The present trade in green limes appears to have been started about 1890. During 1894, 232 barrels of a value of £41 were exported. Last year 36,520 barrels valued at £14,608 were shipped. Of this number no less than 34,316 barrels went to the United States, 1,500 barrels to Britain, 180 barrels to Germany, and the balance direct to Canada.

It is generally admitted that considerable damage is done to the main crop by the careless methods of the pickers of green limes. Much of this occurs about April and May, when fruit is scarce and prices rule high. Now this is realised, better methods of picking limes are coming into practice. On some estates it is customary to gather only those fruits within reach, the balance of the crop being used for making citrate or concentrated lime juice. In other cases light step ladders are being imported for use, though the local type of step ladder, which is easily and cheaply made with three pieces of bamboo of the required height, a few pieces of wood, and a short length of wire, is suitable in the case of small cultivations.

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* By Joseph Jones, Esq., Curator, Botanic Gardens, Dominica.

The superiority of fruit which is carefully gathered over that torn from the tree by means of long bamboos with hooks attached must be apparent to everyone. By careful methods of picking, damage to young fruit, flowers, and branches, and wastage of green fruit are reduced to a minimum. The Permanent Exhibition Committee continued its efforts to popularise the lime in England by the free distribution of fruit and by advertisements in trade journals.

The exports of green limes during a period of six years are given below:—

	Barrels.
1906	15,799
1907	18,311
1908	20,343
1909	22,523
1910	27,427
1911	36,520

91. *Citrate of Lime.*—This product was first exported during 1906, when 733 cwt., valued at £1,503, was shipped. Last year the production reached 5,926 cwt., valued at £19,259.

Two factories are now equipped for making citrate, one of which is situated near to Roseau and the other in the Lasoye district. It is expected that a third factory will shortly commence the manufacture of this product.

The following table gives the exports of citrate of lime since 1906:—

	Cwt.		Value. £
1906	733	...	1,503
1907	2,388	...	7,761
1908	2,512	...	8,164
1909	3,447	...	11,203
1910	5,194	...	16,880
1911	5,926	...	19,259

92. The exports of lime products during 1911 were as follows:—

				£
Concentrated lime juice,	131,506	gallons	...	23,014
Raw lime juice,	311,377	,,	...	10,379
Raw juice cordial,	10,650	,,	...	954
Green limes,	36,520	barrels	...	14,608
Pickled limes,	711	,,	...	267
Citrate of lime,	5,926	cwt.	...	19,259
Essential oil of limes,	5,472	gallons	...	3,283
Otto of limes,	892	,,	...	2,118
				£73,882

Though the crop of 1911 showed a slight decrease, the increase in values over the previous year amounted to £3,548.

93. *Cacao.*—The export of cacao was 10,055 cwt. By taking a four year period, 1904 to 1907, it will be found that the average annual export was 11,182 cwt. This represents the maximum export of cacao from Dominica. For a similar period, 1908 to 1911, the average annual export was 10,498 cwt., a yearly reduction of 690 cwt., when compared with the former period. This falling away is due to the preference given by planters to the cultivation of the hardy and profitable lime, which can be grown on various soils from sea level up to an elevation of 2,000 feet, while the successful cultivation of the delicate cacao plant is restricted to sheltered positions at low elevations near to the coast.

The efforts which have been made to bring about some improvement in the methods of cultivating cacao on small holdings by means of Prize Holdings Competitions have effected some good in the La Plaine and Grand Bay districts. These competitions might with advantage be extended to other districts in which cacao is grown on a considerable scale. This crop, which is easily callected and cheaply prepared for market, is the only one that can be readily handled by the peasants for export at present in certain districts at Windward. Limes could be grown in these localities, but the absence of local purchasers of fruit discourages the planting of this product. Also, the long distances to be traversed and the frequent delays in shipping operate against the general cultivation of the lime with its bulky crop, the manufacture of which, from a peasant's point of view, is difficult and expensive. It is evident that the amount of cacao shipped from Dominica is considerably underestimated by the Customs. For export purposes each bag is taken to be of 200 lbs. net weight. Of the 5,000 to 6,000 bags shipped annually probably not more than 1,000 bags are of the standard weight of 200 lbs., the balance being of a weight varying from 220 lbs. up to 250 lbs.

94. The export of cacao during the past six years, 1906-1911, is given below:—

	Cwt.
1906	11,380
1907	11,628
1908	9,820
1909	10,844
1910	11,272
1911	10,055

95. *Rubber.*—The number of Para rubber plants sold from the Government nurseries during 1911 was 6,500. Large quantities of seeds were imported by private enterprise, but the rate of germination obtained was very low. This is largely due to the method of transport. It has been demonstrated repeatedly that if Para rubber seeds are packed in large cases and sent in the holds of vessels the rate of germination is poor and in many cases nil. It has also been clearly shown that if the seeds are packed in charcoal in small tins containing 400 to 500 each and sent through parcels post, good results are obtainable. Although

this information has appeared in every agricultural journal published in the West Indies it is well nigh impossible to get private individuals to adopt the method that can be depended upon to give fair, and in many cases excellent, results.

Samples of Para, Castilloa, Funtumia, and Ficus rubbers were prepared and exhibited at the second International Rubber Exhibition, held in London in July, The Para rubber was afterwards analysed at the Imperial Institute. The report stated as follows: —

"The results of the analysis show that this Para rubber from Dominica is of very good quality, as it contains 94 per cent. of caoutchouc in the dry material and only small amounts of resin and proteid. It is slightly superior in composition to the previous specimen of Para rubber from Dominica shown at the Rubber Exhibition held in London in 1908 and subsequently examined at the Imperial Institute. (*See* Imperial Institute Report dated 10th February, 1909.)

"The results of these investigations show that the Para trees in Dominica will furnish rubber of excellent quality which will realise good prices in the market."

The species of Castilloa grown in Dominica thrives well on coast lands. The experiments in tapping show that the yield per tree is low and the species cannot be recommended for cultivation in Dominica, although the rubber obtained is of excellent quality.

The same remark applies to *Funtumia elastica*, which grows with considerable vigour in wet districts. The yield of ten to twelve year-old trees is very low. This does not suit the average planter's requirement of some return on capital in seven or eight years.

Both Castilloa and Funtumia produce an abundance of seed which germinates readily where it falls. The trees are now naturalised in the Island. The seeds of Castilloa are apparently distributed by birds and animals, while those of Funtumia are fitted with awns, a flying contrivance which ensures the distribution of the seeds by the wind.

96. *Vanilla.*—During recent years several attempts have been made to start a vanilla industry in the Island but, owing to the absence of expert knowledge in curing the fruit, the efforts have resulted in little beyond bringing about the distribution of the plant, which is now well established in every district in the Island, in which places it thrives vigorously.

Owing to the enterprise of the owner of Canefield Estate, the cultivation of this product has been started on a considerable scale under the direction of an expert in the growing and curing of vanilla. Should these efforts prove successful they may result in the establishment of a new industry.

In connexion with the above, arrangements have been made at Canefield to purchase supplies of green vanilla fruits that may be offered for sale, either of local growth or from neighbouring islands. The price varies according to the length and condition of the pods offered for sale.

97. *Minor products.*—Under this head there were exported 1,803 barrels of oranges, of a value of £1,156; 402,622 coconuts,

valued at £839. Bay leaves, 141 cwt., valued at £634; coffee, 78 cwt., valued at £218; and starches, 334 cwt., valued at £234. There are large areas of land suited to the growth of the above products, the cultivation of which might in each case be considerably extended.

MONTSERRAT.*

General.

98. In view of the fact that for many years prior to 1906 Montserrat was dependent upon Imperial Grants to enable revenue to meet expenditure, it is a satisfactory sign of the times to note that in seven years it has been possible to build up a surplus of £13,469 out of an annual revenue averaging £10,452, while during the same period taxation has been reduced, a sum of £8,000 spent on several permanent and much needed public works, and a previous Imperial loan of £973 repaid.

99. As usual, Montserrat, during the year under review, proved to be one of the healthiest of the West Indian Islands. No quarantinable disease visited its shores, and there were no epidemics. The death rate per thousand was only 15·33, although it is the most thickly populated island in the Colony, there being 375·26 persons to the square mile.

100. The census, which was taken on the night of the 2nd April, 1911, showed the population to be 12,196—a decrease, due to emigration to the Canal Zone, of 19 since the previous census in 1901. The natural increment for the ten years was, however, 2,005.

101. The construction of the iron pier, referred to in the report for 1910-11, was completed during the year under review, and has proved to be most satisfactory in every way.

102. The Fogarthy's spring was purchased from the Montserrat Company for £75, and a water supply to St. Peter's district from that source was established. It is intended to extend the service to Cudjoe Head district in 1912-13.

103. It is interesting to note that, for the first time in the history of the Presidency, its volume of trade reached six figures.

104. Montserrat was represented at the Canada-West Indies Reciprocity Conference at Ottawa in March and April, 1912, by the Commissioner.

105. The Presidency did not suffer from earthquakes, hurricanes, or other disasters during 1910-11, which was a year of steady progress. The crops gave good returns, and the weather was seasonable, if slightly drier than usual. The peasants were prosperous and contented, and the Island was in an eminently peaceable condition.

Financial.

106. The financial position of the Presidency of Montserrat is most satisfactory.

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* From notes supplied by His Honour Lieut.-Colonel W. B. Davidson-Houston, C.M.G., Commissioner of Montserrat.

The revenue, £12,945, for the financial year exceeded the expenditure, £10,030, by £2,915, the surplus on 31st March, 1912, standing at £13,469. Both the revenue and the surplus are the largest recorded in the history of the Presidency. The expenditure exceeded the estimate by £817.

107. The total value of imports for the calendar year 1911, £44,795, exceeded the imports of the previous year by £6,689.

The total value of exports during the year 1911, £55,930, exceeded that for 1910 by £21,537, due chiefly to Sea Island cotton. Although there was a decrease of 88,545 lbs. of Sea Island cotton exported during the financial year as compared with the previous year, which caused a drop in the export duties, the shipments of that article, 544,617 lbs. during the calendar year, exceeded the previous year's shipments by 333,306 lbs. of the value of £22,030. Lime-juice and lime-juice products show a decrease of £856, Muscovado sugar £955, and specie £900. Cotton seeds increased £1,644.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.*

108. During the year under review the growing prosperity of the Virgin Islands was maintained.

The year's transactions, inclusive of Imperial Grants-in-Aid to the Agricultural Department and including the expenditure on, and receipts from, the cotton and lime industries, show an excess of revenue over expenditure of £1,754 3*s*. 9*d*., to which, however, must be added £737 14*s*. 9*d*. and £70, being, respectively, the estimated value of cotton, cotton seed, and lime juice on hand at the close of the year, and a non-recurrent expenditure of £526 7*s*. 2*d*. on additions and improvements to public buildings, and repairs to the revenue cutter.

109. The imports amounted to £9,150, an increase of £433 over that of the preceding year. The exports amounted to £8,852, an excess over that of the previous year of £2,168, making the total trade of the Presidency £18,002, which is the highest recorded for over 28 years, and possibly for many years prior thereto.

110. The rainfall was 51·30 inches, and although this was only 2·59 inches below the average for the last 11 years, the year was most unfavourable for agricultural and pastoral pursuits, owing to severe drought during the planting season from May to October.

111. The agricultural and commercial undertakings carried on at the Government Factory were again well maintained. During the year 51,671 lbs. of cotton lint was exported, being 1,300 lbs. in excess of the amount exported in the previous year. Limes purchased at the station amounted to 725 barrels, a decrease of 75 barrels on the previous year.

The amount of sugar canes received at the factory was 175 tons, or about 75 tons more than last year.

112. Towards the close of the year a three quarter bred stallion was imported into Tortola for the purpose of improving the local breed of horse. A bonus of £20 from Imperial funds in aid of

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* By His Honour T. Leslie Jarvis, Esq., Commissioner of the Virgin Islands.

agriculture was given to the importer on the condition that the services of the animal will be available for other horse owners for five years.

113. The health of the Presidency was as usual very good. The number of births was 218, as against 222 in 1910. The number of deaths was 89, as against 85 in 1910. The birth rate was 39 and the death rate 16 per thousand. A census of the population was taken on the 2nd of April, 1911, and a population of 5,562 was returned—being an increase of 654 over the 4 908 recorded in 1901.

114. The Virgin Islands were represented at the Canadian National Exhibition for the sixth time. The exhibits consisted of samples of cacao, coffee, sugar, arrowroot starch, concentrated lime juice, preserved limes, rum, cassava cakes, cotton, lace, and drawn thread work.

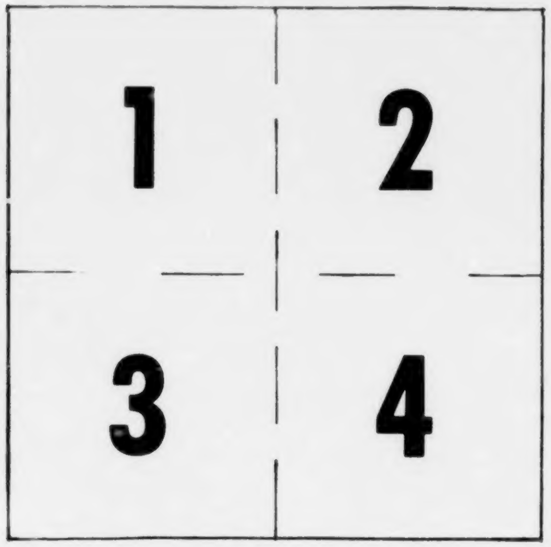
115. It is regretted that it has not been found possible to prepare the new sketch maps of the Islands in time for inclusion in this report.

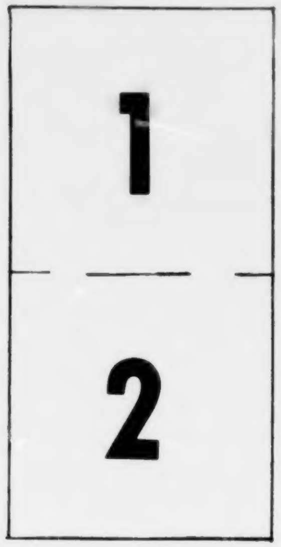
H. E. W. Grant,

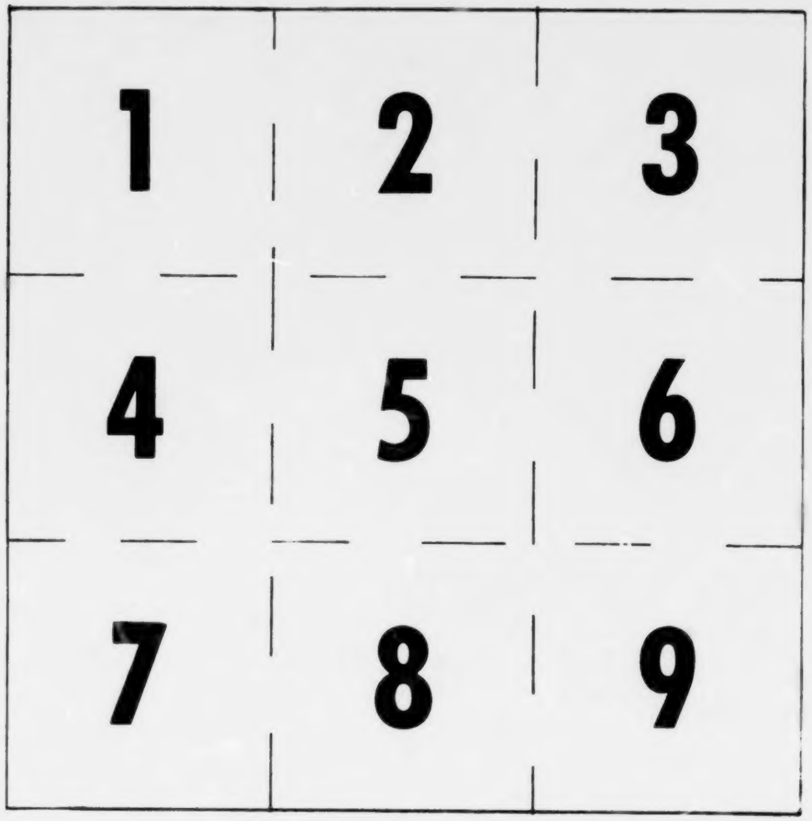
Colonial Secretary,
Leeward Islands.

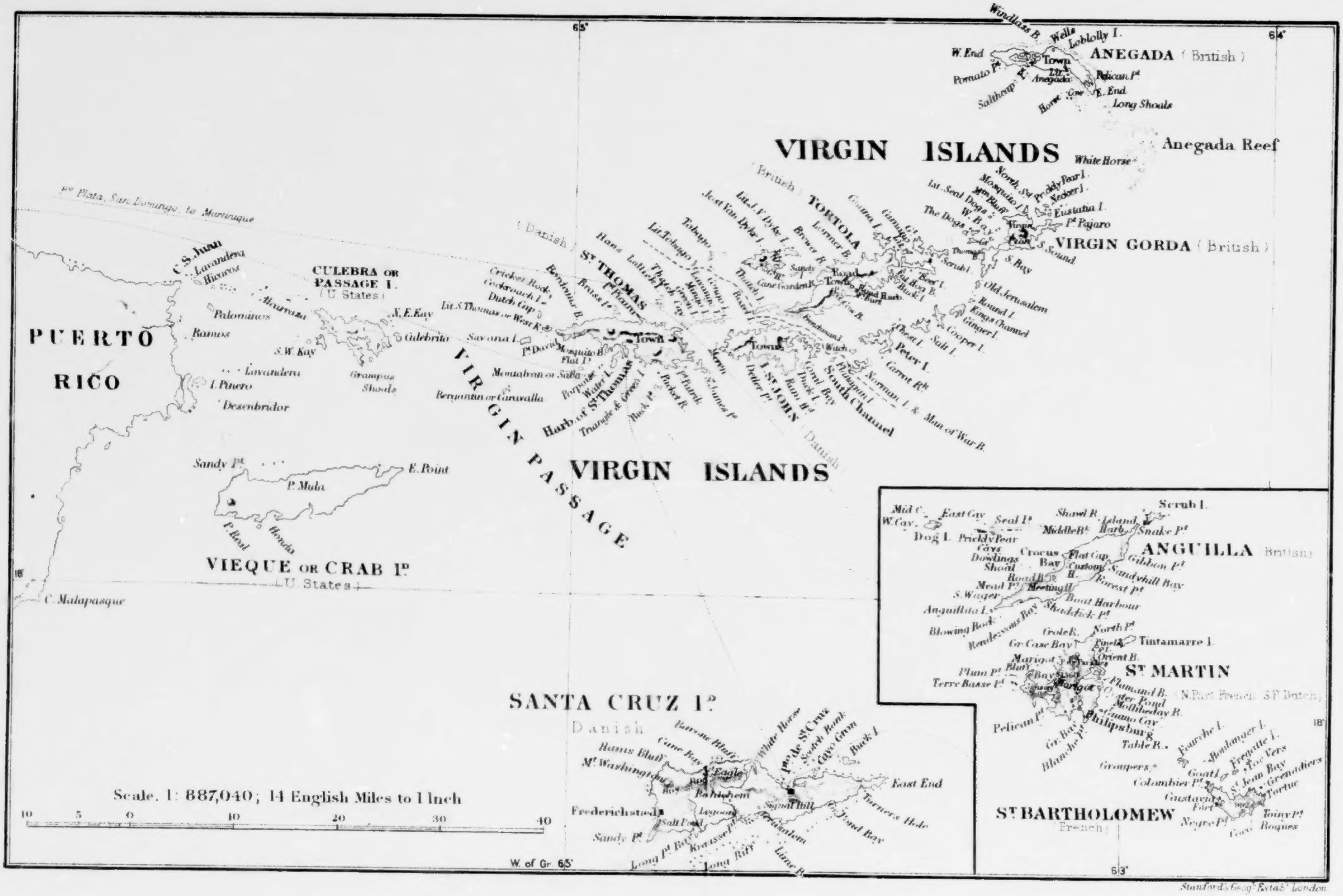
Antigua.
24th October, 1912.

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.

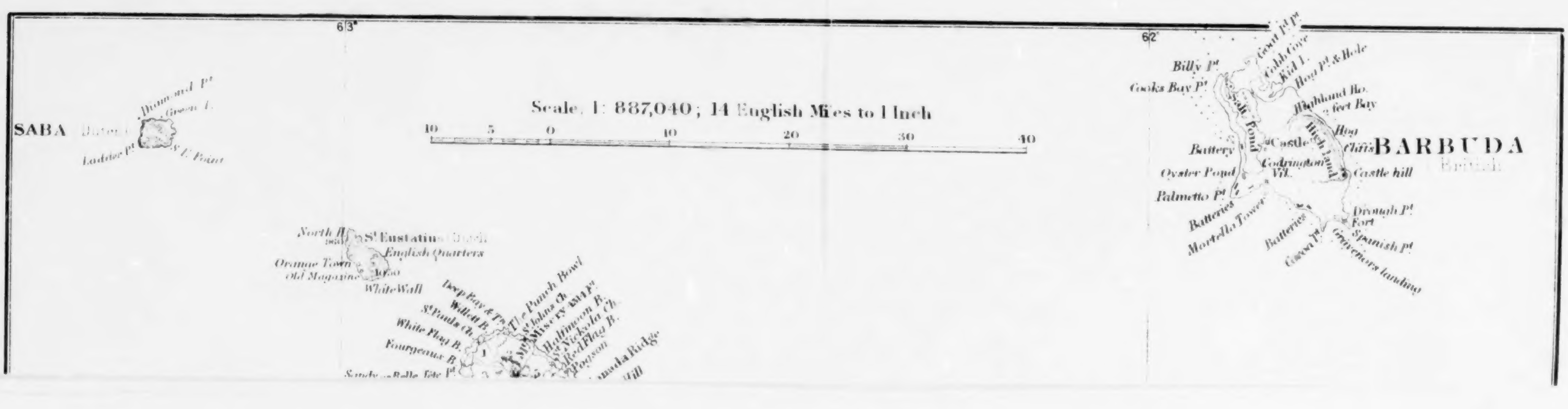


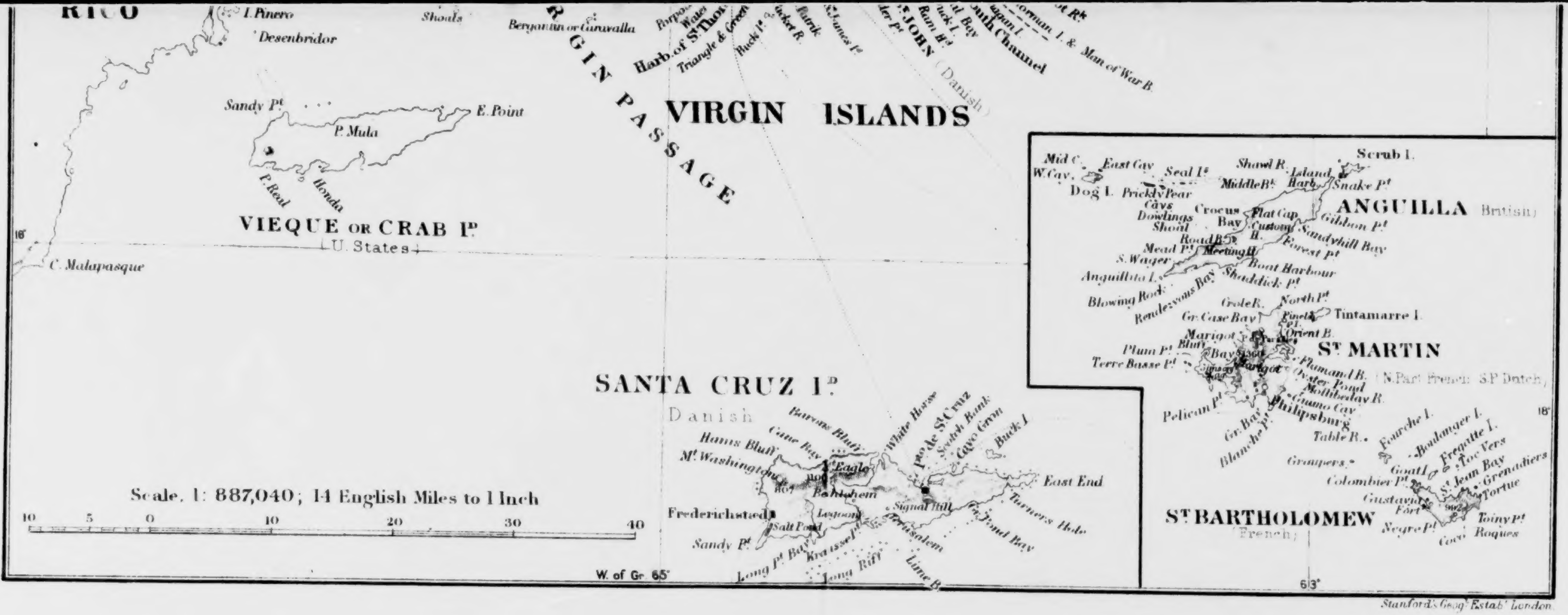





VIRGIN ISLANDS (British)
VIRGIN ISLANDS (Danish)
PUERTO RICO
C. S. Juan
CULEBRA OR PASSAGE I. (U. States)
VIEQUE OR CRAB Id (U. States)
C. Malapasque
VIRGIN PASSAGE
ST THOMAS
ST JOHN
TORTOLA
VIRGIN GORDA (British)
ANEGADA (British)
Anegada Reef
SANTA CRUZ Id Danish
Frederichsted
ANGUILLA (British)
ST MARTIN (N. Part French, S. P. Dutch)
Marigot
Philipsburg
ST BARTHOLOMEW (French)
Pto Plata, San Domingo, to Martinique
Scale, 1: 887,040; 14 English Miles to 1 Inch
10 5 0 10 20 30 40
W. of Gr. 65°
64°
63°
18°

Stanford's Geogl Estabt London


SABA (Dutch)
St Eustatius (Dutch)
Orange Town
BARBUDA (British)
Codrington Vil.
Scale, 1: 887,040; 14 English Miles to 1 Inch
10 5 0 10 20 30 40
63°
62°


RICO
I. Pinero
Desenbridor
Shoals
Bergantin or Caravalla
Harb. of St. Thomas
Triangle & Green
Buck I.
VIRGIN PASSAGE
VIRGIN ISLANDS
JOHN
(Danish)
South Channel
Man of War B.
Sandy Pt.
E. Point
P. Mula
P. Real
Honda
VIEQUE OR CRAB I.
U. States
18°
C. Malapasque
SANTA CRUZ I.
Danish
Barons Bluff
Hams Bluff
Cane Bay
Mt. Washington
White Horse
Pt. de St. Cruz
Scotch Bank
Cayo Gran
Buck I.
East End
Mt. Eagle
Bethlehem
Frederichstaed
Salt Pond
Lagoon
Signal Hill
Christiansted
Sandy Pt.
Long Pt. Bay
Krausse Lagoon
Jerusalem
Turners Hole
Great Pond Bay
Long Riff
Lime B.
Scale. 1: 887,040; 14 English Miles to 1 Inch
10 5 0 10 20 30 40
W. of Gr. 65°
Scrub I.
Mid C.
W. Cay
East Cay
Dog I.
Seal Is.
Prickly Pear Cays
Dowlings Shoal
Shoal R.
Middle Bt.
Island Harb.
Snake Pt.
ANGUILLA (British)
Crocus Bay
Flat Cap
Road B.
Gibbon Pt.
Sandyhill Bay
Forest Pt.
Mead Pt.
S. Wager
Meeting H.
Boat Harbour
Shaddick Pt.
Anguillita I.
Blowing Rock
Rendezvous Bay
Grole R.
North Pt.
Gr. Case Bay
Tintamarre I.
Marigot
Orient B.
ST. MARTIN
Plum Pt.
Terre Basse Pt.
Simson Bay
Flamand B.
Oyster Pond
Mollibeday R.
Guana Cay
(N. Part French: S. P. Dutch)
Pelican Pt.
Gr. Bay
Philipsburg
Blanche Pt.
Table R.
Fourche I.
Boulanger I.
Fregatte I.
Toc Vers
Groupers
Colombier Pt.
Goat I.
St. Jean Bay
Grenadiers
Tortue
Gustavia
Fort
ST. BARTHOLOMEW
(French)
Negre Pt.
Coco
Toiny Pt.
Roques
18°
63°

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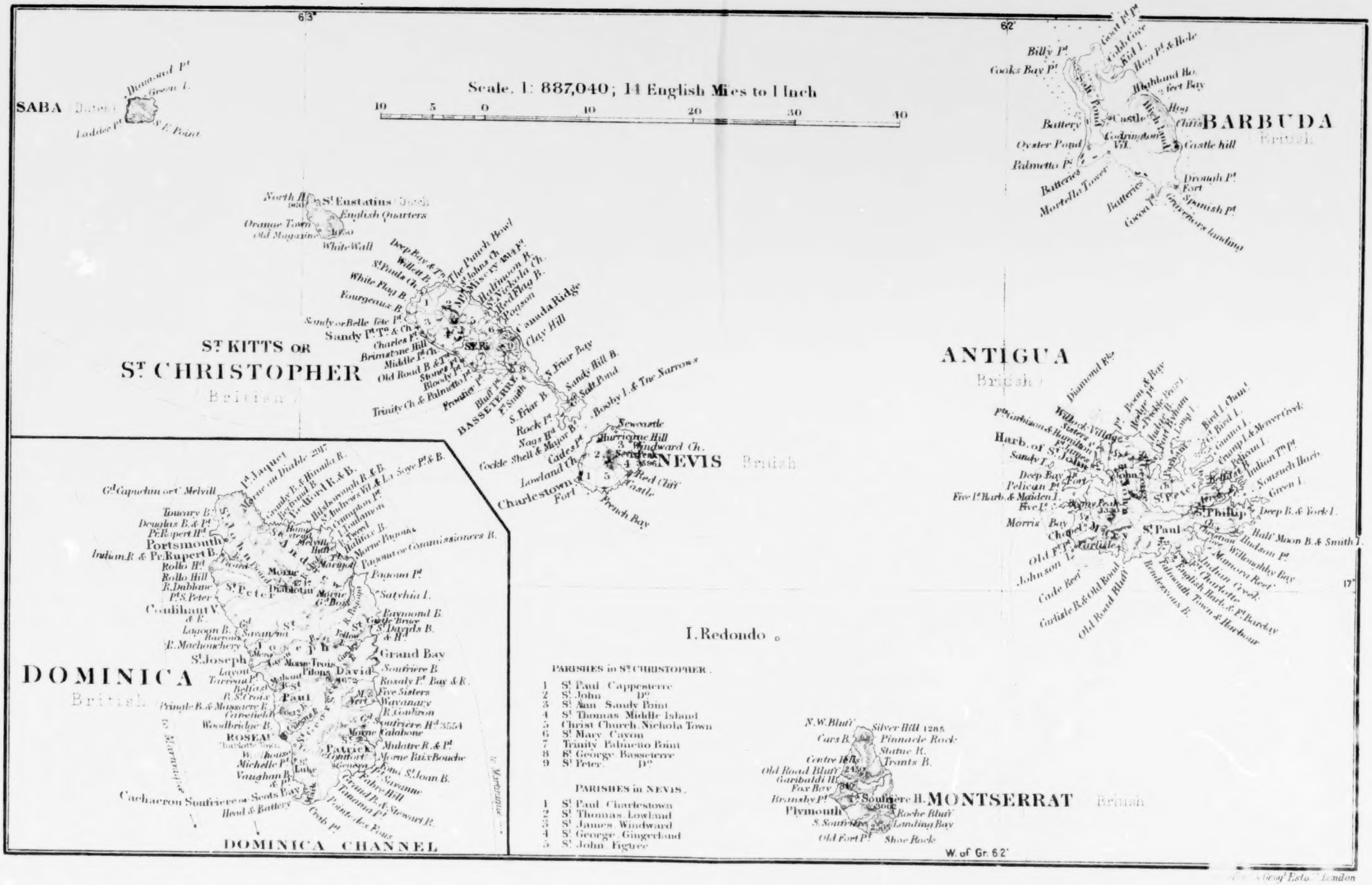
63°
62°
SABA (Dutch)
Diamond Pt.
Green I.
Ladder Pt.
S. E. Point
Scale. 1: 887,040; 14 English Miles to 1 Inch
10 5 0 10 20 30 40
Billy Pt.
Goat Pt.
Cooks Bay Pt.
Cobb Cove
Kid I.
Hog Pt. & Hole
Highland Ho.
Perfect Bay
Hog Chin
Battery
Castle
Codrington Vil.
BARBUDA
(British)
Oyster Pond
Castle hill
Palmetto Pt.
Batteries
Martello Tower
Dead Pt.
Fort
Spanish Pt.
Cocoa Pt.
Gravenors landing
North Hill
St. Eustatius (Dutch)
English Quarters
Orange Town
Old Magazine
White Wall
Deep Bay & Tn.
The Punch Bowl
St. Johns Ch.
Willett B.
Misery Mt.
St. Pauls Ch.
Halfmoon B.
St. Nichola Ch.
White Pt.
Red Flag B.
Fourgeaux B.
Pogson
Canada Ridge
Sandy or Belle tete Pt.
Sandy Pt. Tn. & Ch.
Clay Hill
Charles Ft.
Brimstone Hill
Middle Id. Ch.
Old Road B. & Tn.
Stoney Ft.
Bloody Pt.
Frigate Bay
Sandy Hill B.
Salt Pond
Booby I. & The Narrows
Trinity Ch. & Palmetto Pt.
BASSETERRE
St. Friar B.
Ft. Smith
Rock Pt.
Nags Hd.
Cockle Shell & Major B.
ST. KITTS OR
ST. CHRISTOPHER
(British)
Newcastle
Hurricane Hill
Windward Ch.
NEVIS (British)
Red Cliff
Lowland Ch.
Castle
Charlestown
Fort
French Bay
ANTIGUA
(British)
Diamond Bk.
Harb. of St. Johns
St. Johns
Sandy I.
Deep Bay
Pelican Pt.
Five Is. Harb. & Maiden I.
Five Is.
Morris Bay
St. Peters
St. Philip
St. Paul
Deep B. & York I.
Green I.
Half Moon B. & Smith I.
Willoughby Bay
Old Ft. Pt.
Johnson I.
Cade Reef
Carlisle B. & Old Road
Old Road Bluff
Rendezvous B.
Falmouth Town & Harbour
English Harb.
Indian Creek
Mamora Reef
St. Charlotte
Pt. Barclay
17°
I. Redondo
Gd. Capuchin or C. Melville
Toucary B.
Douglas B. & Pt.
Pr. Rupert Hd.
Portsmouth
Indian R. & Pr. Rupert B.
Rollo Hd.
Rollo Hill
R. Dublanc
Pt. St. Peter's
St. Peter
Coulihaut V.
Lagoon B.
R. Machonchery
St. Joseph
Layou
Tarreau Pt.
Belfast
St. Paul
Pringle B. & Massacre R.
Woodbridge B.
ROSEAU
Charlotte Town
Woodhouse
Michelle Pt.
Vaughan B.
Cachacron Soufriere or Scots Bay
Head & Battery
Morne Diablotin
Morne Trois Pitons
St. David
St. Patrick
Grand Bay
Soufriere B.
Rosalie Pt. Bay & R.
Five Sisters
Wavanary
R. Goidron
Soufriere Hd. 3554
Morne Calabone
Mulatre R. & Pt.
Morne Paix Bouche
St. Joan B.
Grand R. Stewart R.
Pointe des Fous
Pagoua Pt.
Satchia I.
Raymond B.
Castle Bruce
St. Davids B.
DOMINICA
British
DOMINICA CHANNEL
N.W. Bluff
Silver Hill 1285
Cars B.
Pinnacle Rock
Statue R.
Centre Hills
Trants B.
Old Road Bluff
Garibaldi Hl.
Fox Bay
Bransby Pt.
Soufriere H.
MONTSERRAT (British)
Plymouth
S. Soufriere
Roche Bluff
Landing Bay
Old Fort Pt.
Shoe Rock
W. of Gr. 62°

PARISHES in St. CHRISTOPHER.

1 St. Paul Cappesterre
2 St. John Do.
3 St. Ann Sandy Point
4 St. Thomas Middle Island
5 Christ Church Nichola Town
6 St. Mary Cayon
7 Trinity Palmetto Point
8 St. George Basseterre
9 St. Peter Do.

PARISHES in NEVIS.

1 St. Paul Charlestown
2 St. Thomas Lowland
3 St. James Windward
4 St. George Gingerland
5 St. John Figtree

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No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
719	Ashanti	1911
720	Falkland Islands	"
721	Seychelles	"
722	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
723	Hong Kong	"
724	Sierra Leone	"
725	Gold Coast	"
726	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
727	Fiji	"
728	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1911–1912
729	Basutoland	"
730	Colonial Survey Committee	"
731	Malta	"
732	Nyasaland	"
733	British Honduras	1911
734	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1910
735	Southern Nigeria	1911
736	Somaliland	1911–1912
737	Imperial Institute	1911
738	Northern Nigeria	"
739	Jamaica	1911–1912
740	Swaziland	"
741	Bahamas	"
742	Grenada	1911
743	Uganda	1911–1912
744	Mauritius	1911
745	Trinidad and Tobago	1911–1912
746	British Guiana	"
747	St. Vincent	"
748	Barbados	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Surveys, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.

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1913.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 793.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1912-13.

(For Report for 1911-12, see No. 749.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
March, 1914.

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MAP.

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No. 793.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1911-12, see No. 749.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,

12th January, 1914.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the financial year 1912–13, prepared by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. T. A. V. Best.

2. The figures shown in the financial returns indicate in most cases a satisfactory position, and the small decrease in revenue, as compared with the statistics of 1911–12, is merely due to the fact that a considerable quantity of cotton belonging to the Virgin Islands Government was not sold before the close of the financial year of account.

3. The aggregate expenditure of the Colony was slightly larger than that of the previous year, and the increase is attributable to the execution of certain public works in St. Kitts and Montserrat, the cost of which was defrayed from the surplus funds of those Presidencies.

4. The surplus assets of the Colony were increased by nearly £10,000 during the year, and the accumulations of the five Presidencies now amount to the respectable total of £80,953.

5. The net public debt, after deduction of sinking funds, stands at £180,000, and only represents an indebtedness of £1 8*s*. 4*d*. per head of population. Such a rate must be one of the lowest in the Empire.

6. The year 1912–13 was not a favourable one for trade in general. The total value of imports and exports only amounted to £1,162,035, as compared with £1,235,158 in the preceding year. Dominica was the only island which resisted the decline.

7. There was a notable decrease in the value of imports from the United Kingdom, but this was due to the abnormal quantity and value of machinery imported into St. Kitts in 1911 in connection with the Basseterre Sugar Factory. Generally speaking, the trade between these islands and the mother country is keeping pace with extensions of commerce in other directions.

8. Owing to a distressing degree of drought, the cane crop in Antigua and St. Kitts was very short. Cotton also did not do very well, and the value of lint shipped in 1912 was worth only £70,123, as compared with £103,890 in 1911. I am glad to say that the prospects for the current year are much brighter.

9. Dominica showed a record production of lime-juice, and the island continues to present a very satisfactory degree of progress in agricultural development. There are excellent opportunities for the profitable investment of capital in Dominica, and the important programme of road-construction which is about to be put into execution will do much to encourage enterprise.

10. St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands maintained a satisfactory level of prosperity, and the year was marked by no unusual developments in those Presidencies.

11. The year under review was, fortunately, free from all atmospheric disturbances, and was only marred by an inadequate rainfall. The general health of the population was good, though much still remains to be done for the improvement of sanitary conditions among the labouring classes. The preponderance of females is very marked in all the islands, the males numbering only 55,000 as compared with 72,000 of the other sex. There were no political disturbances of any kind and a gradual improvement in social conditions is noticeable in most directions.

I have, etc.,

H. Hesketh Bell,

Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS. FOR THE YEAR 1912–13.

1.—FINANCIAL.

1. The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies constituting the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1913, (exclusive of grants in aid of the Agricultural Department from the Imperial Government, amounting to £948 10*s.*) was £172,480 0*s.* 8½*d.*, showing a decrease of £2,338 3*s.* 2*d.* in comparison with the revenue for the year 1911–12.

2. The following table shows the amount of revenue collected in each Presidency (exclusive of Imperial grants in aid of the Agricultural Department) during the last five years, as also the increase or decrease as compared with 1911–12:—

Presidency.	1908–9	1909–10	1910–11	1911–12	1912–13	Increase 1912–13 over 1911–12	Decrease 1912–13 under 1911–12
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ..	51,502	48,583	52,326	52,292	53,490	1,198	—
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	47,133	47,343	52,748	58,002	57,078	—	924
Dominica ..	40,500	38,937	41,473	43,719	45,185	1,466	—
Montserrat	10,950	10,612	12,262	12,945	11,932	—	1,013
Virgin Islands..	4,248	4,195	5,566	7,860	4,795	—	3,065
Total .. £	154,333	149,670	164,375	174,818	172,480	£2,664	£5,002

3. The Imperial grants in aid of the Agricultural Department were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Antigua	373	10	0
St. Kitts-Nevis	150	0	0
Dominica	115	0	0
Montserrat	150	0	0
Virgin Islands	160	0	0
Total	£948	10	0

4. The following is a return showing the number of licences issued in the Leeward Islands in 1912 for the sale of intoxicating liquors, and the revenue derived therefrom:—

Presidency.	No. of Licences.	Revenue. £	s.	d.
Antigua	23	850	0	0
St. Kitts-Nevis	51	1,734	0	0
Dominica	118	1,116	0	0
Montserrat	51	198	15	0
Virgin Islands	13	29	0	0

5. The aggregate expenditure for the year 1912–13 (exclusive of that in respect of the Agricultural Department from Imperial grants in aid) was £162,266 15*s.* 8½*d.*, as against £158,924 14*s.* 8*d.* for the year 1911–12, showing an increase of £3,342 1*s.* 0½*d.*

6. The expenditure of each Presidency during the last five years is shown on the following table, as is also the increase or decrease as compared with 1911–12 :—

Presidency.	1908–9	1909-10	1910-11	1911-12	1912-13	Increase 1912-13 over 1911-12	Decrease 1912-13 under 1911-12
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ..	49,964†	49,204‡	53,495	53,652	53,193	—	459
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	45,722	47,932	49,872	50,737	53,415	2,678	—
Dominica ..	36,541	41,276	39,050	38,399	40,123	1,724	—
Montserrat ..	9,296	7,807§	11,366	10,030	10,556	526	—
Virgin Islands	4,693	3,687	5,480	6,107	4,980	—	1,127
Total .. £	146,216	149,906	159,263	158,925	621,267	4,928	1,586

† Included £1,542 repayment of loans.
‡ Included £500 repayment of loans.
§ Included £500 repayment of loans.

7. The expenditure from Imperial funds on the Agricultural Department was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Antigua	385	1	9
St. Kitts-Nevis	93	7	0
Dominica	181	4	7
Montserrat	179	19	4
Virgin Islands	232	16	7
Total	£1,072	9	3

8. The surplus of assets over liabilities on the 31st March, 1913, amounted to £80,953 9*s.* 7*d.*, which was made up as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Antigua*	5,877	14	0½
St. Kitts-Nevis	30,297	10	6
Dominica	28,166	5	3
Montserrat	14,844	18	0½
Virgin Islands	1,767	1	9

9. The assets and liabilities of the Colony on the 31st March, 1913, as compared with the assets and liabilities on the 31st March, 1912, are shown below :—

---

*Exclusive of a floating liability of £750 due to the Imperial Treasury for excess of grants made in 1907.

	1911–12.	1912–13.		
	£	£	s.	d.
Assets	80,521	91,807	10	8½
Liabilities	9,782	10,854	1	1½
Surplus of Assets ..	£70,739	£80,953	9	7

The surplus of assets for the Island of Barbuda amounted to £1,478 1*s.* 4*d.*

10. The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounts to £266,850.

11. The following table shows the amount of the loans raised, and the sums standing to the credit of the sinking funds at the 31st March, 1913 :—

Presidency.	Total amount of loans raised.	Amount to credit of Sinking Fund.		
	£	£	s.	d.
Antigua	123,500	42,920	13	7
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	67,250	20,395	16	6
Dominica	65,000	20,514	2	3
Montserrat	11,100	3,033	9	7
Total ..	£266,850	£86,864	1	11

MUNICIPALITIES.

12. The Government of the City of Saint John, Antigua, is vested in five Commissioners, under the control of the Governor in Executive Council. Two of the Commissioners must be persons not holding any office of emolument under the Crown.

There is also a Town Committee in Basseterre, St. Kitts, and a Town Board in Roseau, Dominica.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

13. The total value of imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1912, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £617,332, as against £688,689 in 1911, being a decrease of £71,357.

14. The total value of the exports, exclusive of internal trade, was £544,703, as against £546,469 in 1911, showing a decrease of £1,766.

15. The following tables exhibit the value of the imports and exports during the last five years, exclusive of internal trade :—

Year.	Antigua	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Mont-Serrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1908	175,587	184,002	150,651	28,195	8,315	546,750
1909	139,496	171,939	124,685	27,524	7,382	471,026
1910	170,033	192,541	140,925	29,718	8,496	541,713
1911	181,331	302,865	161,101	34,166	9,226	688,689
1912	168,274	252,637	154,776	31,492	10,153	617,332

Exports.

Year.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Mont-serrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1908	179,106	180,539	109,393	41,434	6,995	517,467
1909	114,122	172,659	100,018	26,550	7,451	420,800
1910	196,184	195,506	109,529	30,003	6,610	537,832
1911	161,064	203,166	122,365	51,198	8,676	546,469
1912	164,968	187,961	147,962	36,594	7,218	544,703

Imports and Exports.

Year.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Mont-serrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1908	354,693	364,541	260,044	69,629	15,310	1,064,217
1909	253,618	344,598	224,703	54,074	14,833	891,826
1910	366,217	388,047	250,454	59,721	15,106	1,079,545
1911	342,395	506,031	283,466	85,364	17,902	1,235,158
1912	333,242	440,598	302,738	68,086	17,371	1,162,035

IMPORTS.

16. The following table exhibits the value of the imports for each of the last five years, distinguishing the countries whence the imports came, and showing the increase or decrease in 1912, as compared with 1911 :—

Country whence Imported.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	Incr. 1912 over 1911.	Decr. 1912 under 1911.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	225,773	183,426	229,193	334,945	252,088	—	82,857
British Colonies . .	99,976	81,608	102,738	122,330	113,483	—	8,847
United States of America . .	201,350	190,107	191,148	208,253	220,016	11,763	—
Other Foreign Countries . .	19,651	15,885	18,634	23,161	31,745	8,584	—
Total . . £	546,750	471,026	541,713	688,689	617,332	20,347	91,704

EXPORTS.

17. The value of the exports during each of the last five years, distinguishing the countries to which the exports were sent, and showing the increase or decrease in 1912, as compared with 1911, is shown in the following tables :—

Countries to which exported.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	Incr. 1912 over 1911	Decr. 1912 under 1911
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	159,161	147,318	188,984	217,696	240,635	22,939	—
British Colonies..	261,529	202,086	271,020	239,649	215,359	—	24,290
United States of America	72,245	38,287	43,462	69,974	57,611	—	12,363
Other Foreign Countries	24,532	33,109	34,366	19,150	31,098	11,948	—
Total ..	517,467	420,800	537,832	546,469	544,703	34,887	36,653

18. The value of the trade between the Presidencies for the years 1908 to 1912 was as under :—

Year.	Value.
	£
1908	20,843
1909	35,295
1910	45,636
1911	45,010
1912	42,034

SUGAR.

19. The quantity of sugar exported from each Presidency during the years 1907 to 1912 is shown below :—

Presidency.	1907	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	13,972	12,501	8,619	13,488	11,025	11,639
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	14,132	10,986	11,621	12,330	11,130	10,554
Dominica ..	107	24	—	—	—	—
Montserrat ..	207	60	38	190	73½	104
Virgin Islands ..	1	1	—	—	—	—
Total ..	28,419	23,572	20,278	26.008	22.228½	22.297

COTTON.

20. The following is a return of cotton exported from the Presidencies of Antigua (including Barbuda), St. Kitts-Nevis (including Anguilla), Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands, during the years 1908-12.

Presidency.	1908.		1909.		1910.		1911.		1912.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£
Antigua	178,100	12,983	59,560	3,248	59,584	4,403	96,992	6,795	80,910	5,099
St. Kitts-Nevis	459,309	33,002	404,058	23,970	392,039	29,403	782,993	55,013	663,726	42,823
Montserrat	391,068	28,371	202,542	11,882	209,308	15,698	544,607	38,693	289,234	19,448
Virgin Islands	32,520	1,992	52,528	2,531	27,589	1,713	50,423	3,389	47,131	2,753
Total	1,060,997	76,348	718,688	41,631	688,520	51,217	1,475,015	103,890	1,081,001	70,123

MANUFACTURES, MINES, AND FISHERIES.

21. Sugar is the principal manufacture in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis. In St. Kitts the distilling of rum is of some importance.

The staple in Dominica and Montserrat is lime juice. The production of citrate of lime in those islands is being developed. There is a sulphur mine at Soufrière, in Dominica, but it is not worked at present. Phosphate of lime is found in Barbuda, and phosphate of alumina in Redonda.

22. There is no recognised fishing industry in the Colony. Fish are caught for local consumption only, except in the Virgin Islands, whence large quantities are exported to the neighbouring Danish island of St. Thomas.

The principal fish caught are:—kingfish, barracouta, margate, snapper and cavally. Lobsters are also plentiful.

Sea fishing with rod and reel, as a pastime, has been introduced with considerable success, especially in the waters of Antigua. A spoon-bait is most generally used. Many tarpon have been taken by rod and reel off Barbuda.

LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

28. The value of land in the Colony varies in accordance with its suitability for the cultivation of sugar-cane or other products. In Dominica, Crown lands can be purchased at 10*s*. an acre. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane-growing land varies from £4 to £8 an acre.

In Antigua there are over 2,000 acres of land at Piccadilly, Red Hill, and the Ridge, on which there is much valuable timber. In the event of the erection of a sugar factory in that district, favourable sections of these lands will doubtless be taken up for the cultivation of sugar-cane.

SHIPPING.

29. Comparing the figures with those for the year 1911, there was a decrease of 206,668 tons in steam vessels and an increase of 10,066 tons in sailing vessels entered and cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1912.

The following table shows the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in each Presidency during each of the last five years, including both steam and sailing vessels, and the increase or decrease in 1912, as compared with 1911:—

Presidency	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	Incr. 1912 over 1911.	Decr. 1912 under 1911.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua ..	722,862	643,966	644,705	679,048	653,355	—	25,693
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	638,961	593,942	625,636	685,852	684,455	—	1,397
Dominica	746,640	713,227	694,985	642,809	578,892	—	63,917
Montserrat	384,472	362,158	360,226	359,554	253,523	—	106,031
Virgin Islands	14,422	12,853	12,770	12,631	13,067	436	—
Total ..	2,507,357	2,326,146	2,338,322	2,379,894	2,183,292	436	197,038

* AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES DURING 1912, IN ANTIGUA, ST. KITTS-NEVIS, MONTSERRAT AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Sugar.—The year 1911 was another year of dry weather and resulted in short crops in both Antigua and St. Kitts. Fortunately sugar prices remained at a fairly satisfactory level, which served to mitigate to some extent the effects of the unfavourable seasonal conditions.

For the year 1912, the exports of sugar from Antigua amounted to 11,690 tons, of which 7,503 were 96° crystal sugar, and 4,187 tons were muscovado.

In St. Kitts-Nevis, the exports of sugar for the crop, amounted to 10,285 tons, of which 3,866 tons were 96° crystals and 6,419 tons muscovado.

The marked increase in the export of grey crystal sugar from St. Kitts is due to the working of the St. Kitts Sugar Factory, which took off its first crop during 1912.

It is worthy of note that the year under review is the first in which grey crystal sugar has constituted more than half of the total sugar output of the Leeward Islands Colony.

During the crop the Antigua Sugar Factory manufactured 6,235 tons of sugar and crushed 59,371 tons of cane, thus taking 9·6 tons of cane to make one ton of sugar. On account of the unfavourable season, the quality of cane handled was poor. The shortage of water encountered during the previous crop was met by increasing the capacity of the reservoir attached to the factory. In consequence of this, it was possible to take off the crop without serious inconvenience by reason of water shortage, in spite of the continued dry weather experienced during the reaping of the crop. During the year 2,664 tons of peasants' canes were purchased.

The first year's work of the St. Kitts Factory resulted in the production of 3,660 tons of grey crystal sugar; 35,439 tons of cane being crushed to produce this. Owing to the dry character of the previous season, poor yields of cane were obtained in the districts tapped by the factory, while in quality the canes were indifferent.

Work was further handicapped by labour difficulties, partly due to changes in the method of payment for reaping canes consequent to the erection of the factory.

During the months of May to August exceptionally dry weather was experienced throughout the Colony, especially in Antigua. Well distributed rains in the latter months of the year served to ameliorate conditions to a considerable extent, notably in St. Kitts, in which island the prospects were for a fairly good sugar crop in 1913.

Cotton.—The exports of cotton for the three crop years 1909–10, 1910–11, and 1911–12, are given below.

	1909–10.	1910–11.	1911–12.
Antigua and Barbuda	59,960 lbs.	96,992 lbs.	80,910 lbs.
St. Kitts	231,150 ,,	329,322 ,,	332,168 ,,
Nevis	129,963 ,,	343,395 ,,	165,329 ,,
Anguilla	43,400 ,,	148,595 ,,	97,142 ,,
Montserrat	202,542 ,,	402,666 ,,	346,568 ,,
Virgin Islands	23,139 ,,	50,337 ,,	51,677 ,,

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* By H. A. Tempany, Esq., B.Sc., F.I.C., F.C.S., Superintendent of Agriculture, Leeward Islands.

It will be seen that the exports for 1911–12 are below those for 1910–11, but exceed those of 1909–10. On the whole, the season must be described as moderately satisfactory.

The growing season of 1912 was extremely unpropitious in the earlier months, but the favourable rains of the latter months of the year served to bring about a greatly improved state of affairs. The year was remarkable for the very severe attacks of cotton caterpillars experienced during the months of October and November; in most places the attacks were adequately controlled, but some damage on this account was sustained by peasant cotton-growers in Nevis and the Virgin Islands. To obviate a recurrence of this, steps have been taken to provide adequate supplies of insecticides for the use of peasant growers in Nevis, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands.

On the whole, this industry appears to have settled down to a position of stability, and it is not anticipated that any great expansion is likely to occur in the near future. An exception to this however is seen in the case of Antigua, where a notable revival of confidence and expansion of the industry has been witnessed during the past few years.

Limes.—Lime plantations in Montserrat continued to suffer from the attacks of scale insects and other plant diseases. During the year much attention was devoted to the subject by officers of the Agricultural Department, but so far no great amount of success has attended efforts to find a palliative. Evidence exists to show that the trouble is complex in character and has probably been greatly aggravated by a succession of unfavourable seasons and climatic conditions. The total exports of lime products from Montserrat during 1912 were valued at £9,370, and consisted of raw and concentrated lime juice, green limes, citrate of lime, and essential oil.

Interest in limes increased in Antigua during the year, and further considerable extensions of the area planted took place, mainly in the southern districts of the island. The exports of lime products from Antigua during 1912 were valued at £1,209.

Some interest continues to be shown in lime growing in Nevis and efforts were continued to foster their cultivation by the peasantry of Tortola.

Coconuts.—The cultivation of coconuts continues to increase in almost all the Presidencies of the Colony. The pioneer plantation at Pinney's Estate, in Nevis, gave its first return during the year. In Antigua the earlier plantations have continued to make a satisfactory growth and further areas have been planted: a considerable area was also planted in Barbuda. An attempt is being made to encourage the industry in the Virgin Islands.

OTHER MINOR INDUSTRIES.

The growing of onions for export constitutes a minor industry of some importance in Antigua, while some attention continues to be directed towards the cultivation on a small scale of vanilla and cacao in certain districts in Dominica, St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat.

* AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN DOMINICA FOR THE YEAR 1912.

Limes.—The lime crop for the past five years, calculated in barrels of fruit, is recorded below :—

	Barrels.
1908	277,000
1909	284,000
1910	369,000
1911	355,000
1912	370,000

It may be pointed out that adherence to the calendar year as the export year is not satisfactory. For instance, the increase in the crop of 1912 was largely due to the considerable carry-over from the 1911 crop, and not altogether to increased yields during 1912.

The rainfall during 1912 was considerably below the average, a condition generally favourable to agriculture in Dominica, and especially so in this case, following after the excessively wet years of 1910 and 1911. The low rainfall did not appear to check the good work of fungus parasites in controlling scale insects on lime trees, though a prolonged spell of dry weather would probably tend to do so.

The effect of two years' heavy rainfall was to cause a noticeable increase of root disease on lime plantations. Several of the outbreaks were investigated by the Mycologist of the Department during his visits, and found to be due to two species of fungus, one being *Sphaerostilbe sp.*, known as the red root disease, and the other *Rosellinia bunodes*, the black root disease. Planters concerned were advised in respect to remedial measures which, on being carried out, should effectively control the diseases.

Evidence of continued confidence in the industry is shown by the development of planting during the past six years. Within that period no less than 326,000 lime plants have been sold from the Government nurseries to local planters. Large numbers of these plants have also been raised in private nurseries. It would appear that under normal climatic conditions a gradual increase in the export of lime products is assured for a number of years.

Apart from the planting of lime seedlings during recent years by settlers on Crown lands, steady planting is being continued on nearly all of the older properties. Except in a few instances in which the available areas are entirely planted, it may be stated that development of lime cultivation is proceeding on all the plantations in the island.

Concentrated lime juice and citrate of lime continued to command excellent prices on the market.

Raw Lime Juice.—There was a heavy demand for this commodity, which resulted in the record shipment of 508,766 gallons. Judging by the figures given below, which show the quantity of raw juice exported during the past three years, it would appear that enquiries for this product are on the increase. The improvement in the shipments during 1912 was mainly due to growing demand for lime juice in Canada.

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* By Joseph Jones, Esq., Curator, Botanic Gardens.

Recent exports of raw lime juice were as follows :—

	Galls.
1910	203,792
1911	311,377
1912	508,766

Citrate of Lime.—There was considerable falling off in the export of this product, which was brought about by a demand in Canada for large supplies of raw lime juice. This reduction in the output, even if the great demand for raw lime juice in Canada continues, is only temporary. The export of citrate is certain to increase in the future. It is satisfactory to know, on the authority of buyers in London, that citrate of lime from Dominica is the best that is placed upon the market.

Green Limes.—Towards the close of the year a business house in New York, which handles the bulk of the limes imported, took the important step of appointing their own agent in Dominica, for the purpose of inspecting consignments of fruit in order to prevent the despatch of immature juiceless limes, and also to improve the method of packing.

The innovation has proved successful, and will probably continue to work with smoothness. At the beginning some rejections of fruit had to be made, but traders soon found that it was to their interest to buy and ship the best fruit only. The small growers in turn ceased to pick immature limes, for the reason that they had become unsaleable. The intentions of the business house have been accomplished without difficulty. The action taken certainly furthers the best interests of the green lime trade.

Action by the firms interested is obviously the best solution of the difficulty. Agents appointed by them are in a much stronger position to act than an official could possibly be, while the cost of inspection falls upon those engaged in the trade, and not upon the entire community.

The number of barrels of limes exported during 1912 was 37,038, an increase on the shipments during 1911 of 518 barrels. Of the total, 35,046 barrels went to New York, 301 barrels to Canada and 1,323 barrels to the United Kingdom. The shipments direct to Canada do not represent the demand for limes in that country, as it is well known that a good deal of this fruit enters Canada by way of New York.

The market with the United Kingdom continues disappointing.

Lime Oils.—Prices for essential oil of limes, which is obtained by process of distillation, ruled low throughout the year. Otto of limes, which is obtained by hand process, commanded excellent prices. A machine invented by two local planters for the purpose of extracting otto of limes more speedily and at less cost was placed upon the market, and several are now under trial on estates.

Exports of lime products during 1912 :—

Product.	Quantity.	Value. £
Concentrated lime juice	141,318 gallons	38,862
Raw lime juice	508,766 ,,	25,438
Raw juice cordial	5,160 ,,	462
Green limes	37,038 barrels	14,815
Pickled limes	724 ,,	271
Citrate of lime	3,910 cwt.	11,991
Essential oil of limes	4,150 gallons	1,816
Otto of limes	1,057 ,,	3,018
	Total	£96,673

The increase in values over the crop of 1911 amounted to £22,791.

Cacao.—The export of this product amounted to 11,877 cwt., being 1,822 cwt. over the shipments of 1911. The increase was due to the considerable carry-over of the Christmas crop of 1911, which, owing to unpropitious weather, could not be cured and dried in time for shipment during December of that year.

Coconuts.—The following table, which gives the number of coconuts exported during the past four years, show that the greater demand and higher prices paid for this product have attracted attention, and led to increased shipments.

1909	321,145
1910	391,044
1911	402,622
1912	539,791

The coconut palm thrives with great vigour in Dominica. It probably attains its maximum vigour and productiveness in the valleys near the sea on the windward side of the island, in which places the rainfall is over 100 inches per year. To the present this cultivation is remarkably free from disease; there having been no case of bud rot or other serious trouble recorded to date.

Oranges and grape fruit.—The export of these fruits is not large, but sufficient has been accomplished by pioneer estates, which grow standard varieties, to show the possibilities of this cultivation.

The navel orange, grown in Dominica and carefully handled and packed, has already attracted attention, and obtained high prices on the London market. A similar advance has been made with grape fruit cultivation, budded stock having taken the place of seedling trees. Experience has shown that orange trees succeed best in Dominica in selected positions between an elevation of 1,000 feet and 2,000 feet.

Para Rubber.—Twenty-two thousand seeds of *Hevea brasiliensis* were imported from Singapore, and a germination at the rate of 60 per cent. was secured, a very satisfactory result.

There was a falling off in the sale of plants, only 2,156 having been distributed, which is much below the sales during former years. It is unlikely that much more planting will be done until tapping experiments have been conducted on mature trees, in order that the cost of producing rubber may be determined. A considerable number of Heveas should be ready for tapping shortly.

Among other industries of a promising character, some of which may be developed considerably in the near future, are the following:—

Cassava Starch.—The quantity exported during 1912 was 31,156 lb. of a value of £260. Some extension of cassava cultivation may be expected, the Government having taken steps to exempt starches from export duty for a term of years.

Bay Leaves and Bay Oil.—Of this forest product 873 cwt. of dried leaves, and 133 gallons of oil were shipped. The value of the two products is returned at £1,250. Greater care is now being taken in collecting the leaves of the bay tree.

Coffee.—The export of coffee was 76 cwt., valued at £213. This small quantity went to neighbouring islands. Now that new species of coffee have been introduced and found to succeed at low elevations, this cultivation might be extended and carried on profitably. The Congo coffee, *Coffee robusta*, and the bush coffee, *C. stenophylla*, grow well, and yield beans much superior to the common Liberian coffee, the latter species being, until recent years, the only kind that would succeed on coast lands in Dominica.

Vanilla.—Cured beans to the value of £113 were exported, and the cultivation is being largely extended.

Hardwood.—The operations of the Dominica Forests Company resulted in the exportation of over a million feet of lumber, the value of which was returned at £11,488.

III.—LEGISLATION.

30. Fourteen Federal Acts and twenty-nine Presidential Ordinances were passed during the year 1912, none of which call for any special remark.

IV.—EDUCATION.

31. The number of children on the registers of the Government and grant-aided schools in the Colony during the year 1912–13 was 24,880, as against 24,243 in the year 1911–12. The average daily attendance was 11,173, as against 11,785 for the previous year.

The following table exhibits the number of children on the registers, and the average attendance in the elementary schools of the several Presidencies or islands of the Colony, together with the percentage of those registered in the whole Colony who were in average attendance, during the last five years:—

Presidency or Island.	On Registers.				
	1908–9	1909–10	1910–11	1911–12	1912–13
Antigua	6,747	6,677	6,549	6,561	6,461
St. Kitts, with Anguilla	6,235	6,355	6,044	5,674	6,076
Nevis	2,656	2,899	2,987	3,094	3,046
Dominica	4,189	4,438	4,816	5,163	5,562
Montserrat	3,000	3,190	3,239	3,163	3,131
Virgin Islands ..	854	915	938	588	604
Total	23,681	24,474	24,573	24,243	24,880

Presidency or Island.	Average Attendence.				
	1908–9	1909–10	1910–11	1911–12	1912–13
Antigua	3,040	3,422	3,337	3,335	3,182
St. Kitts, with Anguilla	2,704	2,728	2,692	2,478	1,995
Nevis	1,389	1,356	1,519	1,445	1,506
Dominica	1,763	2,014	2,357	2,502	2,617
Montserrat	1,452	1,596	1,693	1,718	1,564
Virgin Islands ..	350	471	484	307	309
Total	10,698	11,587	12,082	11,785	11,173
Per cent. for whole Colony	45·1	47·3	49·1	48·6	44·9

32. The following table gives the percentage of children on the rolls in average attendance during the year 1912–13, as compared with the average attendance in 1911–12.

Presidency or Island.	Percentage in Average Attendance. 1911–12	1912–13
Colony	48·6	44·9
Antigua	50·8	49·2
St. Kitts, with Anguilla	43·6	32·8
Nevis	46·7	49·4
Dominica	48·4	48·8
Montserrat	54·3	49·9
Virgin Islands	52·2	51·1

33. The cost of elementary education was derived from the sources shown below :—

	School Fees	Government Grant	Voluntary Contribution
	£	£	£
Antigua	23	1,645	269
St. Kitts with Anguilla ..	—	1,513	556
Nevis	—	764	40
Dominica	12	2,513	5
Montserrat	—	739	93
Virgin Islands	12	226	74
Total	47	7,400	1,037

34. The following list of the secondary schools of the Colony shows the amount granted in 1912–13 from local funds in aid of such schools :—

	£
Antigua Grammar School (*)	400
Antigua Girls' High School (†)	125
Thomas Oliver Robinson Memorial School, Antigua	25
St. Kitts Grammar School (‡)	713
Miss Wattley's School, St. Kitts (§)	115
Miss Bridgewater's School, Nevis (‖)	74
Dominica Grammar School (¶)	469

35. The sum of £150 was granted from Federal funds in aid of the Moravian Training College for Females, Antigua, and the sum of £60 was provided for the training of six male students at the Mico College, Jamaica, three of whom are selected annually after open competition at the pupil teachers' examination.

The following grants-in-aid were contributed from Imperial funds :—

	£
Antigua Grammar School Scholarships	70
St. Kitts Grammar School Scholarships	90
Total	£160

ST. JOHN'S TRAINING SCHOOL.

36. There is one industrial school in the Colony, viz., the St. John's Training School in Antigua, established under the provisions of the Leeward Islands Act No. 4 of 1891, for the reformation, education, and training of persons under 18 years of age. The number of boys in the school on the 1st April, 1912, was 56.

The daily average for the year of the boys admitted from the several Presidencies compared with the previous year was as follows :—

	1911–12	1912–13
Antigua	30·2	33·2
St. Kitts-Nevis	14·3	14·3
Dominica	6·0	4·5
Montserrat	2·7	5·2
Virgin Islands	1·0	—
Total ..	54·2	57·2

The health of the school was very satisfactory. The boys were employed, as in former years, in agricultural and garden work, in addition to the various duties concerned with the indoor department of the school.

The Presidencies contribute at the rate of £10 a year for each boy sent to the school.

The revenue from all sources amounted to £333, and the expenditure (including pensions, £112, and the estimated value of the rent of the school and Chief Officer's quarters, £70) to £779.

(*) Includes £50 for scholarships of £10 each.

(†) Includes £25 for scholarships of £5 each.

(‡) Includes £150 for agricultural and science master, who is also attached to Agricultural School; also £246 school fees repaid to the head master.

(§) Includes £40 for scholarships of £8 each.

(‖) Includes £24 for scholarships of £8 each.

(¶) Includes £33 6s. 8d. scholarships.

A practical effort has been made to fit the boys for a good start in life when they leave the school. A number of the most promising are now apprenticed to responsible craftsmen in St. John's, while still remaining inmates of the school. They receive a small wage, which is put to their credit, and forms a fund to provide them with an outfit.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

37. In the year 1912, 2,557 patients, as against 2,636 for the previous year, were admitted into the hospitals of the Colony. There were 384 deaths, as against 348 for 1911.

38. There is a central lunatic asylum in Antigua. On the 1st January, 1912, there were 121 inmates (62 males and 59 females); 47 (26 males and 21 females) were admitted; 9 (5 males and 4 females) were discharged as cured; and 31 (14 males and 17 females) died.

39. There are two leper asylums in the Colony; one at Rat Island in Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles in St. Kitts.

In Antigua there were 33 lepers (15 males and 18 females) at the beginning of the year; 1 male and 2 females were admitted during the year, and 3 females died.

There is no record in Antigua of any attendant at the asylum having contracted leprosy.

40. The number of inmates in the Antigua poor-house on the 1st January, 1913, was 112 (46 males and 66 females); 99 inmates were admitted during the year and 65 discharged.

The number of persons who received outdoor relief in the Colony during 1912 was as follows:—Antigua, 406; St. Kitts, 1,000; Nevis, 600; Dominica, 157; Montserrat, 97; and the Virgin Islands, 67.

41. The Alexandra Cottage Home for Incurables, in Dominica, supported partly by voluntary contributions, maintained on an average 10 paupers.

St. John's Training School in Antigua has been dealt with under Part IV, Education.

42. The number of depositors in the savings bank and the amounts at their credit on the 31st March, 1913, are noted below:—

Presidency.	No. of Depositors.	Amount at Credit. £
Antigua	2,073	44,523
St. Kitts-Nevis	813	28,602
Dominica	883	16,937
Montserrat	231	5,257
Virgin Islands	103	663
Total	4,103	£95,982

The following table shows the number of depositors and the amounts deposited and withdrawn in the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Deposited.	Withdrawn.
		£	£
1908	3,473	33,550	32,492
1909	3,581	32,588	32,220
1910	3,782	33,845	29,636
1911	3,979	39,979	35,492
1912	4,103	36,294	34,882

The total amount of invested funds is £97,725.

The revenue amounted to £3,224, and the expenditure to £2,822.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

43. The total number of persons in the Colony committed to prison during the year 1912 was 1,069 (572 males, 459 females, and 38 juveniles).

The number of committals in Antigua was 243, as against 256 in 1911.

The number of prisoners transferred from the other Presidencies to the Central Prison, Antigua, was as under :—

Presidency.	Males.	Females.	Total.
St. Kitts-Nevis	7	—	7
Dominica	2	—	2
Montserrat	—	—	—
Virgin Islands	1	—	1
Total	10	—	10

44. The prisoners were employed in the usual service of the prison, such as in cooking for the prisoners and the boys at the training school; cleaning; washing; making and mending clothing and bedding for the prison and the training school; baking bread for the prison, hospital, poor house, lunatic and leper asylums, and training school; also in quarrying and stone-breaking, smithy-work, masonry, and carpentry. The annual cost of the maintenance of each prisoner to Antigua was £22 16*s*.

45. The following table gives the total number of offences reported during each of the last five years, together with the convictions and acquittals in each year :—

Year.	Offences reported.	Convicted.	Acquitted.
1908	10,158	6,178	6,999
1909	11,120	7,067	7,958
1910	3,140	6,802	5,473
1911	3,770	7,170	7,559
1912	3,765	6,620	2,734

3,765 cases were reported to the police, while 14,121 persons were brought before the magistrates. The number of summary convictions was 6,620.

The number of convictions in the Superior Courts was 29. 2,724 persons were acquitted in the Inferior Courts and 10 in the Superior Courts.

46. Comparative Table showing the number of Offences, Apprehensions, and Acquittals, for the last five years.

	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
The number of offences reported to the Police	10,158	111,20	3,140	3,770	3,765
The number of persons brought before the Magistrate	13,243	15,046	13,458	14.771	14,121
The number of summary convictions:—					
1 Offences against property with violence to the person ..	—	—	—	—	—
2 Offences against property ..	785	791	632	651	818
3 Other offences against the person	1,501	946	1,035	1,356	1,229
4 Other offences	3,892	5,330	5,135	5,163	4,573
Total	6,178	7.067	6,802	7,170	6,620
The number of convictions in the Superior Courts:—					
1 Homicide	—	3	—	2	—
2 Offences against property with violence not amounting to homicide	—	—	—	1	—
3 Other offences against property	32	15	19	16	19
4 Other offences against the person	12	9	9	11	6
5 Other offences	6	3	11	3	4
Total	50	30	39	33	29
The number of persons acquitted:—					
1 In the Inferior Courts	6,986	7,939	5,450	7.541	2,724
2 In the Superior Courts.. ..	13	19	23	18	10
Total	6,999	7.958	5,473	7,559	2.734

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

47. The total population of the Colony according to the census of 1911 was 127,193, distributed as follows:—

Island	Males	Females	Total
	£	£	£
Antigua	13,634	17,760	31,394
Barbuda	351	520	871
St. Kitts	10,969	15,314	26,283
Nevis	5,521	7,424	12,945
Anguilla	1,562	2,513	4,075
Dominica	15,231	18,632	33,863
Montserrat	5,245	6,951	12,196
Redonda	4	—	4
Virgin Islands	2,613	2,949	5,562
Total	55,130	72,063	127,193

METEOROLOGICAL.

48. The average rainfall in Antigua from January to December, 1912, on 73 stations, was 32·23 inches.

The average rainfall for the 39 years, 1874 to 1912, was 44·47 inches, so that the precipitation for the year under review was 12·24 inches below the average.

The highest rainfall recorded was in 1889, when there were 73·59 inches, and the lowest in 1875, with 28·78 inches.

The highest maximum temperature was 90°, on 3rd and 26th September.

The lowest minimum temperature was 62°, on 14th April.

Seven slight shocks of earthquake were recorded, viz., on 8th February, 15th May, 2nd June, 20th June, 24th July, 5th November, and 6th November.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

49. British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the following lines :—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (fortnightly), the East Asiatic Company (once a month), the Quebec Steamship Company (about twice a month), and the Pickford and Black Steamship Company (twice a month).

The mails are taken between Tortola and St. Thomas and between Tortola and Virgin Gorda, by a sloop belonging to the Government, and by private boats, as follows :—

From Tortola to St. Thomas about four times a week ; and from Tortola to Virgin Gorda, about six times a month. There is a daily mail service by sailing boat between St. Kitts and Nevis, and a fortnightly mail service by sailing boat between St. Kitts and Anguilla. A sloop is also subsidized by the Government of Montserrat to take mails and passengers between that Presidency, Antigua, and St. Kitts.

50. Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other, the other West Indian Colonies, Europe, and America by the cables of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company. There is no communication by telegraph with either

Montserrat or the Virgin Islands. St. Kitts is in heliographic communication with Nevis.

Telephone services have been established in Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica.

51. The following statement shows the volume of the transactions of the Colony in postal matter during the last five years :—

Year.	Letters and Cards received and sent.	Books and Papers received and sent.	Parcels received and sent.
1908	671,821	219,776	11,680
1909	671,471	222,440	12,280
1910	693,417	228,762	13,626
1911	749,904	220,487	14,395
1912	821,745	233,160	15,606

52. The total value of money orders issued in the Colony was £23,926 8*s.* 2*d.*, as against £23,013 in 1911, and the total value of the orders paid was £25,874 8*s.* 11*d.*, as against £25,740 in the previous year. The money order transactions were distributed between the Presidencies as follows—those for St. Kitts and Nevis being shown in the case of each island :—

	Money Orders Issued.			Money Orders Paid.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Antigua	5,696	9	1	7,522	1	4
St. Kitts	4,035	17	4	7,851	3	7
Nevis	2,807	6	11	1,509	3	10
Dominica ..	6,173	17	1	2,614	12	1
Montserrat ..	2,841	2	4	4.374	1	3
Virgin Islands ..	2,371	15	5	2,003	6	10
	£23,926	8	2	£25,874	8	11

53. The net profit on the working of the Post Offices of the Colony was £2,058 6*s.* 11*d.*, as against £2,137 in 1911.

54. In Antigua there are 188 telephone instruments in use, and 320 miles of wire; in St. Kitts, 117 instruments and 310 miles of wire; and in Dominica 104 instruments and 400 miles of wire.

The receipts and expenditure in connection with the telephone service of the Colony during the year under review were as under :—

Presidency.	Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Antigua	905	19	3	785	11	5
St. Kitts	626	2	9	546	17	4
Dominica	518	5	2	977	10	9

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

On the 27th March, Princess Marie Louise of Schleswig-Holstein, bearer of a message from His Majesty the King, arrived in the Colony and landed in Dominica, proceeding on the 28th March to Montserrat and Antigua, where Her Highness remained as a guest at Government House till the following day.

The visit of the Princess was made the occasion of striking demonstrations of loyalty by the inhabitants of all the islands.

The expenditure of the Federal Government was estimated at £12,553 17*s*. 6*d*., apportionable as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Against Antigua	3,789	9	9
„ St. Kitts-Nevis	4,010	11	9
„ Dominica	3,250	1	10
„ Montserrat	886	16	10
„ Virgin Islands	136	17	4
	£12,073	17	6
„ Imperial funds	300	0	0
Revenue receivable in diminution of Presidential contributions	180	0	0
	£12,553	17	6

The actual expenditure of the year, £12,569 13*s*. 7*d*., was chargeable as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Against Presidential contributions ..	11,932	12	8
„ Imperial funds	405	0	2
Miscellaneous revenue applied towards reduction of contributions ..	232	0	9
	£12,569	13	7

Civil Establishment.

Sir Bickham Sweet Escott, K.C.M.G., left the Leeward Islands on the 15th April, 1912, on appointment to be Governor of the Colony of Fiji and High Commissioner for the Western Pacific. On his departure the Colonial Secretary, Mr. H. E. W. Grant, C.M.G., acted as Governor, until the arrival of his Excellency Sir H. Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G., who assumed the government of the Colony on the 19th July, 1912. Mr. Grant shortly after proceeded on leave, and was promoted to be British Agent and Consul in Tonga. He was succeeded as Colonial Secretary by Mr. T. A. V. Best.

Antigua.

The revenue of Antigua in 1912–13, exclusive of Imperial grants in aid of the Agricultural Department amounting to £373 10*s*. 0*d*., was £53,489, and exceeded the estimates by £1,859. This was the largest revenue collected in the Presidency since 1896, and exceeded the average of the seven years ended 1911–12 by £3,733. The total expenditure from local funds was £53,193, being £1,717 over the estimates for the year, and £459 in excess of the expenditure in 1911–12.

Expenditure on the Agricultural Department from Imperial grants was £385, or £12 more than estimated. £7,462 was expended on Public Works, as against £7,815 in the previous year.

At the end of 1912 Antigua had suffered from three successive years of drought, which caused considerable distress in the country districts; the reservoir at Wallings, from which 15 villages are supplied, being practically empty. The drought culminated in an almost complete failure of the supply in St. Johns, and for some days an acute water famine prevailed. Fortunately some heavy showers in October and November saved the situation.

During the year much has been done to improve matters. Old springs have been cleared, new wells dug and tanks provided. The great improvements made at Body Ponds render it unlikely that the water supply of St. John's will ever fail again.

The outlook in this direction has been made more hopeful by a successful experiment on Bendals' Stream, one of the intermittent water-courses of the island. A small dam retains the water hitherto lost in the sea, and what was once a string of muddy pools is now a reservoir two miles long, containing over a hundred million gallons of water. There are other places where the rainfall could be conserved in a similar way.

The reorganization of the staff of the General Hospital was completed and resulted in a saving during the first year of £450, and an improvement in efficiency.

BARBUDA.

The revenue of Barbuda for 1912–13 was £1,654, as against £2,681 for the year 1911–12. The expenditure was £2,008, as against £2,213. The surplus funds on the 1st April, 1913 amounted to £1,478.

Two hundred and forty-four bales of cotton shipped realised £2,043. This industry has now passed the experimental stage and it may be hoped that the island will not again become a charge on the finances of Antigua.

During the deer-stalking seasons, which are from the 1st January to 3rd March and 1st July to 30th September, many sportsmen visit the island, where deer, wild pig, guinea fowl, pigeon and duck are plentiful.

There is also excellent tarpon and other sea-fishing. The passage by sailing boat from St. John's takes from five to ten hours.

* ST. KITTS–NEVIS.

The Presidency continues to be in a strong financial position. True the record revenue (£58,002) of 1911–12 was not reached during 1912–13, but it was only £1,000 behind it, and this was fully expected in view of the special conditions which existed in the previous year. The estimate of revenue was exceeded by over £6,000.

Expenditure reached £53,432, as compared with £50,736 in 1911–12, but was well within the estimate, which was £55,581. The year's transactions have therefore resulted in an appreciable addition to the surplus funds of the Presidency, which stood on 31st March at the sum of £30,324. Of this amount about £25,000 is earning interest.

Judging by the figures of imports and exports the trade of the Presidency fell off considerably during the year 1912. The value of the imports in 1911 was £306,666, while in 1912 it was only £256,728,

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*By His Honour T. Laurence Roxburgh, Esq., C.M.G., Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis.

or within a trifle of £50,000 less. The high figures in 1911, however, were due to special causes, viz: the importations by the Sugar Factory Company for building and other purposes of large quantities of material and the large demand for goods in the shops owing to the increased amount of money in circulation caused by the labour employed in railway and other construction by the Company. In 1912 these causes had practically ceased to operate. The value of imports in the year 1912, however, was far ahead of all previous years except 1911.

The value of exports fell from £212,481 in 1911 to £193,338 in 1912. This decrease of £19,000 was due partly to a somewhat smaller production of sugar, but principally to a reduction in the values both of sugar and cotton.

In considering the revenue figures and the trade returns of this Presidency, which is an entirely agricultural one, it is always to be remembered that the islands comprising it are practically fully occupied and the lands all taken up. No great development can be expected for there are no new areas to be brought into cultivation. All that can be done is to improve the quality and increase the number of the products of the lands already occupied, introduce new economic plants, and otherwise make the most of what we have. Within these limits of course a good deal can be accomplished, and it is gratifying that during the past few years, notwithstanding these limitations, the prosperity of the Presidency has so greatly increased.

The public roads and buildings and other structures have been maintained in good order, and several minor improvements have been effected. Much attention has been given to supplying water to villages which have hitherto been without it and satisfactory progress has been made with the large reservoir under construction for the improvement of the supply in Nevis. The increased area planted in cotton in Anguilla has justified the opening of three new roads to facilitate transport. The generally improved condition of that island is principally due to the introduction of the cotton industry and it is desirable to do all that is practicable to encourage it.

The emigration of field labourers to Santo Domingo and of domestic servants and artizans to Canada and the United States continued unabated during the year. This fact accentuates the labour difficulty which is being felt by employers, especially on the sugar estates, but there is good reason to think that many of the families of the labouring class are being supported by the remittances of members who have emigrated and are earning considerably more than they did at home.

The general health of the population was well maintained during the year, but there is still an excessive mortality among infants notwithstanding all efforts that have been made to instruct parents in the proper care of their children. There is no question of the general healthiness of the climate in all the three islands of the Presidency, but if the most elementary laws of hygiene are neglected sickness and suffering must ensue as a matter of course, especially in the case of infants. For those—Europeans or natives—who are willing to regard these laws, the islands are as healthy as any part of the world and the climate in the cooler months is delightful.

The population continues to be most loyal. Except in respect of petty offences, the people are law-abiding and their respect for authority as represented by the police remains unabated.

Dominica.

The revenue for 1912–13 reached £45,299 14*s.* 6*d.*, showing an increase of £1,245 12*s.* 2*d.* as compared with the previous year (1911–12).

The expenditure was £40,303 18*s.* 4½*d.*, an increase of £1,512 5*s.* 2*d.* as compared with previous year.

The Presidency closed the year with a surplus of assets over liabilities amounting to £28,166 5*s.* 3*d.*

Trade.

The total imports were £159,529, as compared with £164,695 for 1911.

The exports reached £152,458, an increase of £27,780 over 1911.

This increase was largely due to the steady growth of the staple industry of the Presidency, namely lime products.

Public Works Department.

Owing to the fact that the post of Colonial Engineer was vacant for a considerable part of the year little was undertaken in the direction of Public Works.

Vital Statistics and Public Health.

The total population as shown by the census taken in 1911 was 33,863, showing an increase since 1901 of 4,969.

Births: 1,336 : males 671, females 665, or 38·46 per 1000: showing an increase of 135 during the last ten years.

Deaths registered: 780, or 22·38 per 1000. Infantile mortality under one year was accountable for 166 deaths.

Hospital Statistics.

The total number of patients treated in the Hospital during the year was 760, of whom 18 suffered from malaria fever, and 56 from yaws.

Out of the total of 760 there were only 75 deaths.

General Observations.

From the foregoing report it is obvious that steady progress is being made by the Presidency.

Montserrat. *

Financial.

The prosperity of Montserrat was well maintained during the year under review. The revenue was £11,932, being £1,013 less than the previous year, which was the largest on record in the history of the Presidency. The expenditure for the year was £10,556, or £526 in excess of that of the previous year.

The additional expenditure was due to the construction and improvement of public buildings. The excess of revenue over expenditure was £1,376, which raises the surplus at the end of the previous year from £13,469 to £14,845.

The total value of imports at the 31st December, 1912, amounted to £40,525, and the exports were valued at £42,053, making the total trade of the Presidency £82,378, or £18,347 less than that of 1911, which was entirely due to the falling off of the cotton crop, owing to unseasonable weather.

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*By His Honour Leslie Jarvis, Esq., Acting Commissioner of Montserrat.

The value of the chief exports compared with last year was :—

	1911. £	1912. £
Cotton Lint	37,724	19,356
Cotton Seed	3,537	1,532
Lime Juice, raw	3,692	8,304
Lime Juice, Concentrated ..	1,887	710
Lime, Citrate	1,001	913
Limes, Green	474	363
Essential Oils	138	166
Bay Leaves	148	154
Papaine	1,031	1,606
Cocoa	121	112
Starches	150	302
Onions	281	427
Muscovado Sugar	770	1,913
Horses	148	194
Mules	218	281
Cattle	1,720	2,104
Donkeys	131	188
Small Stock	120	158

The return of imports and exports show the direction of trade to be as follows :—

Imports.

	Per cent.
United Kingdom	35
United States	12
Canada	15
Other places	38

Exports.

	Per cent.
United Kingdom	75
United States	4
Canada	2½
Other places	18½

Agriculture.

The principal directions of activity in the work of the Agricultural Department, which is now entirely supported from local funds, during the year were :—

Cotton selections with a view to obtaining superior strains, suitable for general cultivation.

Cultural experiments with lime trees.

The covering of lime trees with Bengal beans as a means of controlling scale insects.

The infestation of lime trees attacked by scale insects with the shield scale fungus with a view to controlling the disease.

Considerable interest was aroused in the planting of Bay Trees for the purpose of producing oil.

Particular attention was given to the culture of the sweet potato, the most important food crop of the island.

General.

The rainfall for the year was 41·33 inches, being 5·10 inches below the average.

The Presidency was again represented at the Toronto Exhibition, and was awarded a Gold Medal, and Diploma of Merit.

A Preferential Tariff Agreement between Canada and the West Indies was made during the year.

The health of the Presidency was, as usual, good. The number of births was 416, as against 380 in 1911. The number of deaths was 176, as against 187 in the previous year. The birth-rate was 33·03 and the death-rate 13·97 per 1,000.

VIRGIN ISLANDS. *

During the year 1912–13, the prosperity of the Virgin Islands suffered from a small temporary set-back. The revenue amounted to £4,795 3*s.* 9½*d.*, and the expenditure to £4,979 19*s.* 11½*d.*, an excess of expenditure of £164 16*s.* 2*d.* This was due to an unusually prolonged drought which was experienced during the earlier part of the year, which was however relieved by a fairly well distributed rainfall towards its close, with the result that the prospects for 1913–14 were decidedly bright.

The imports for the year amounted to £10,323, an increase of £1,173 over that of the previous year. The exports amounted to £7,258, a decrease of £1,594 as compared with 1911–12. The total trade of the Presidency thus totalled £17,581, as compared with £18,002 in 1911–12.

During the year 36,588 lbs. of cotton lint was exported, as compared with 51,671 lbs. last year.

Limes purchased at the Government Factory amounted to 961 barrels, an increase of 236 barrels on the previous year. Limes grow well in the sheltered valleys of Tortola, and this industry, which is steadily advancing, is likely to prove of real and lasting value to the island.

Efforts were made during the year to start a coconut industry. Stretches of land well adapted to the cultivation of the coconut lie at the foot of the hills along the seashore. Already outside capital has been invested in land in Tortola and steps are being taken to form a plantation.

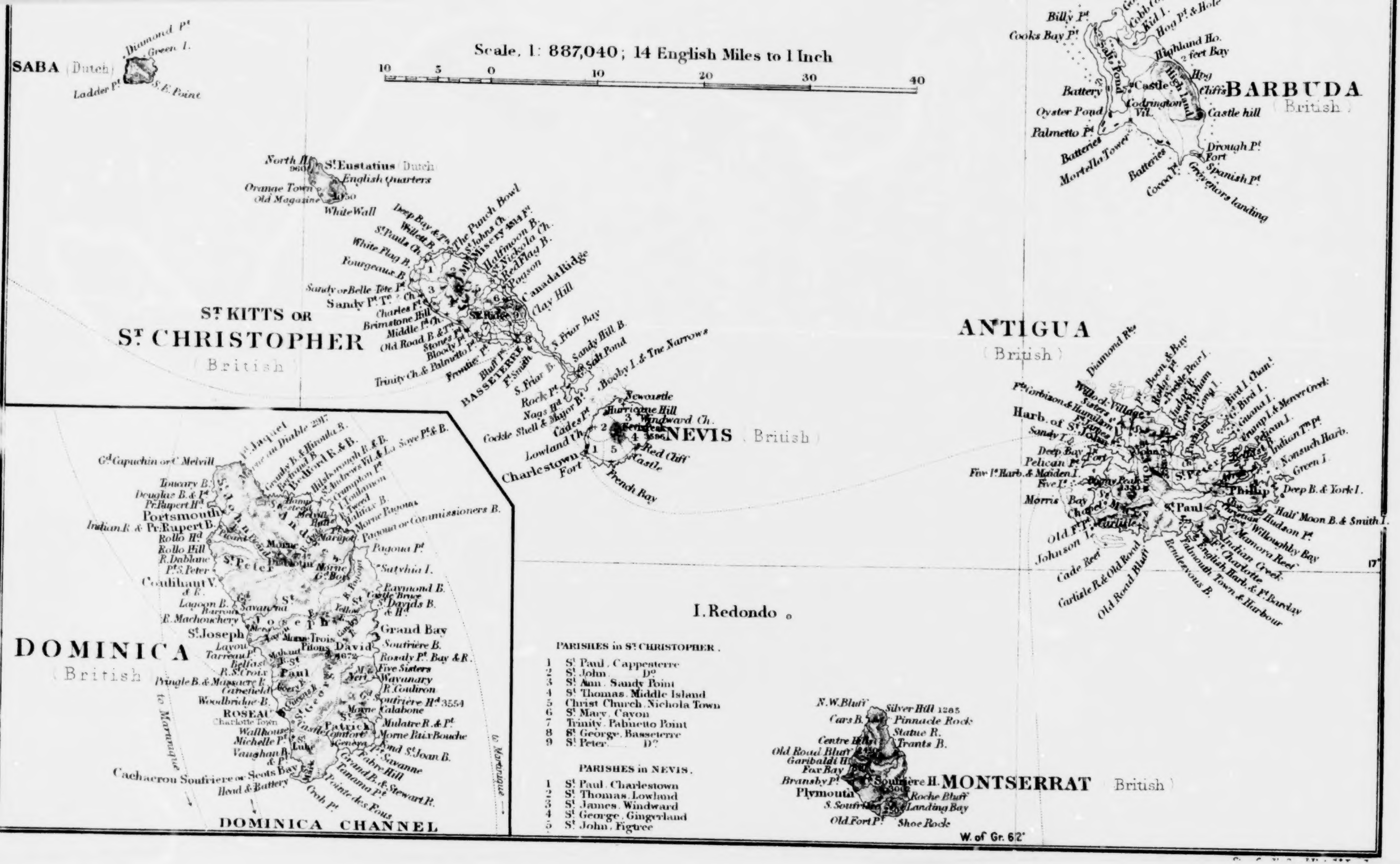
Suitable soil and quick means of communication with the ports of the United Kingdom will be powerful factors in the development of this industry.

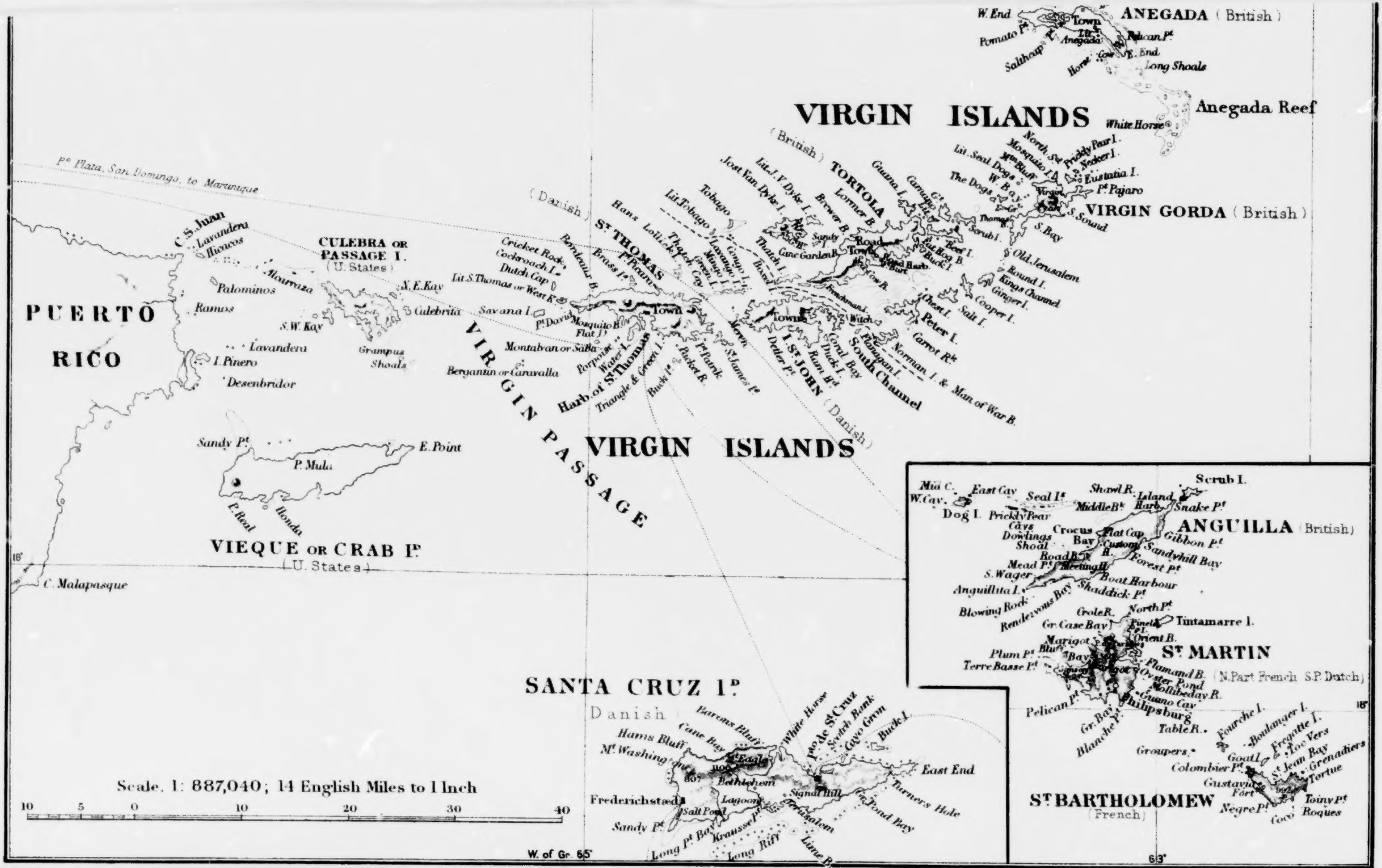
The rainfall for the year was 49·70 inches, a decrease of 3·41 inches on the average rainfall for the past 12 years.

The health of the Presidency was as usual very good. There were no quarantinable diseases and no epidemic.

The number of births for the year was 203, as against 218 in 1911. The number of deaths was 96, as against 89 in 1911. The birth rate was 38 per 1000 of population, and the death rate 17. The population according to the census of April, 1911 was 5,562.

***By His Honour T. L. E. Clarke, Esq., M.D., C.M., Acting Commissioner of the Virgin Islands.**


Scale, 1: 887,040; 14 English Miles to 1 Inch
10
5
0
10
20
30
40
SABA (Dutch)
Diamond Pt.
Green I.
Ladder Pt.
S.E. Point
St. Eustatius (Dutch)
North Hl.
English Quarters
Orange Town
Old Magazine
White Wall
ST. KITTS OR
ST. CHRISTOPHER
(British)
Deep Bay & Tn.
The Punch Bowl
Willett B.
St. Johns Ch.
Misery
St. Pauls Ch.
Halfmoon B.
White Flag B.
St. Nichola Ch.
Red Flag B.
Fourgeaus B.
Pogson
Canada Ridge
Sandy or Belle Tête Pt.
Sandy Pt. Tn.
Charles Ft.
Clay Hill
Brimstone Hill
Middle Id. Ch.
Old Road B. & Tn.
Stones Ft.
Bloody Pt.
Trinity Ch. & Palmetto Pt.
Frontier Pt.
Bluff Pt.
BASSETERRE
Ft. Smith
S. Friar B.
S. Friar Bay
Sandy Hill B.
Salt Pond
Booby I. & The Narrows
Rock Pt.
Nags Hd.
Cockle Shell & Major B.
Cades Pt.
Lowland Ch.
Charlestown
Fort
NEVIS (British)
Newcastle
Hurricane Hill
Windward Ch.
Red Cliff
Castle
French Bay
BARBUDA
(British)
Billy Pt.
Cooks Bay Pt.
Cobb Co.
Kid I.
Hog Pt. & Hole
Highland Ho.
2 feet Bay
Hog
Cliffs
Salt Pond
Battery
Castle
High Land
Codrington Vil.
Castle hill
Oyster Pond
Palmetto Pt.
Batteries
Martello Tower
Drough Pt.
Fort
Spanish Pt.
Cocoa Pt.
Grivignors landing
ANTIGUA
(British)
Diamond Rk.
Pt. Garbizon & Hamilton
Willock Village
Boon & Bay
Harb. of St. Johns
Sandy I.
Deep Bay
Pelican Pt.
Five Id. Harb. & Maiden I.
Five Id.
Morris Bay
Chapel
Old Ft. Pt.
Johnson I.
Cade Reef
Carlisle R. & Old Road
Old Road Bluff
Bird I. Chan.
Bird I.
Guana I.
Crump I. & Mercer Creek
Pelican I.
Indian Tn. Pt.
Nonsuch Harb.
Green I.
Deep B. & York I.
Philip
St. Paul
St. Peter
Half Moon B. & Smith I.
Hudson Pt.
Willoughby Bay
Mamora Reef
Indian Creek
Ft. Charlotte
English Harb. & Ft. Barclay
Falmouth Town & Harbour
Rendezvous B.
17°
I. Redondo
PARISHES in ST. CHRISTOPHER.
1 St. Paul, Cappesterre
2 St. John, Do.
3 St. Ann, Sandy Point
4 St. Thomas, Middle Island
5 Christ Church, Nichola Town
6 St. Mary, Cayon
7 Trinity, Palmetto Point
8 St. George, Basseterre
9 St. Peter, Do.
PARISHES in NEVIS.
1 St. Paul, Charlestown
2 St. Thomas, Lowland
3 St. James, Windward
4 St. George, Gingerland
5 St. John, Figtree
MONTSERRAT (British)
N.W. Bluff
Silver Hill 1285
Cars B.
Pinnacle Rock
Statue R.
Centre Hills
Trants B.
Old Road Bluff
Garibaldi H.
Fox Bay
Bransby Pt.
Soufrière H.
Plymouth
Roche Bluff
S. Soufrière
Landing Bay
Old Fort Pt.
Shoe Rock
W. of Gr. 62°
DOMINICA
(British)
Gd. Capuchin or C. Melvill
Pt. Jaquet
Morne au Diable 2917
Grandy B. & Hirondelle B.
Bellevill R. & B.
Hillsborough R. & B.
St. Andrews Vil. & La Soye Pt. & B.
Toucary B.
Douglas B. & Pt.
Pr. Rupert Hd.
Portsmouth
Indian R. & Pr. Rupert B.
Rollo Hd.
Rollo Hill
R. Dablane
Pt. S. Peter
St. Peter
Coulihaut V. & R.
Lagoon B.
R. Machouchery
St. Joseph
Layou
Tarreau Pt.
Belfast
R. St. Croix
Pringle B. & Massacre R.
Canefield
Woodbridge B.
ROSEAU
Charlotte Town
Wallhouse
Michelle Pt.
Vaughan B. & Pt.
Cachacrou Soufriere or Scots Bay
Head & Battery
Crab Pt.
Pointe des Fous
Tanama Pt.
Grand B. & Stewart R.
Fabre Hill
Pt. Savanne
Fond St. Joan B.
Morne Paix Bouche
Mulatre R. & Pt.
Calabone
Soufrière Hd. 3554
R. Coulibron
Wayanary
Five Sisters
Rosaly Pt. Bay & R.
Soufrière B.
Grand Bay
St. Davids B. & Ht.
Castle Bruce
Raymond B.
Satvhia I.
Pagoua Pt.
Pagoua or Commissioners B.
Morne Pagoua
Marigot
Crompton Pt.
Morne Trois Pitons
St. David
St. Paul
St. Patrick
St. Luke
St. George
St. Joseph
St. John
St. Andrew
4672
to Martinique
to Martinique
DOMINICA CHANNEL


VIRGIN ISLANDS (British)
ANEGADA (British)
Anegada Reef
W. End
Pomato Pt.
Saltheap Pt.
Town
Lit. Anegada
Pelican Pt.
E. End
Long Shoals
White Horse
VIRGIN GORDA (British)
North Sd.
Prickly Pear I.
Necker I.
Eustatia I.
Pt. Pajaro
Mosquito I.
Lit. Seal Dogs
The Dogs
W. Bay
S. Sound
S. Bay
TORTOLA
Guana I.
Camanoe
Lormer B.
Brewer B.
Lit. J. V. Dyke I.
Jost Van Dyke I.
Road
Town
Cane Garden B.
Sandy I.
Thatch I.
Tobago
Lit. Tobago
Beef I.
Scrub I.
Old Jerusalem
Round I.
Kings Channel
Ginger I.
Cooper I.
Salt I.
Peter I.
Carrot Rk.
Norman I. & Man of War B.
South Channel
Flanagan I.
Coral Bay
Duck I.
Ram Hd.
I. St. JOHN (Danish)
Ditler Pt.
Town
VIRGIN ISLANDS
(Danish) St. THOMAS
Hans Lollik I.
Thatch Cay
Congo I.
Lavango I.
Mingo I.
Green I.
Brass Is.
Bordeaux B.
Pt. Picara
Town
Harb. of St. Thomas
Triangle & Green I.
Buck I.
Pt. Patrik
Packet R.
St. James Is.
Water I.
Porpoise
Mosquito B.
Flat Is.
Pt. David
Savana I.
Lit. S. Thomas or West K.
Cricket Rock
Cockroach I.
Dutch Cap
Montaban or Saba
Bergantin or Caravalla
VIRGIN PASSAGE
P.o Plata, San Domingo, to Martinique
CULEBRA OR PASSAGE I. (U. States)
N. E. Kay
Culebrita
S. W. Kay
Grampus Shoals
C. S. Juan
Lavandera
Hicacos
Alcarraza
Palominos
Ramos
Lavandera
I. Pinero
Desenbridor
PUERTO RICO
C. Malapasque
Sandy Pt.
P. Mula
E. Point
P. Real
Honda
VIEQUE OR CRAB Id. (U. States)
SANTA CRUZ Id. Danish
Barons Bluff
Cane Bay
Hans Bluff
Mt. Washington
Eagle
Bethlehem
Frederichstaed
Salt Pond
Sandy Pt.
Long Pt. Bay
Krausse Pt.
Long Riff
Lagoon
Signal Hill
Jerusalem
Lime B.
Gr. Pond Bay
Turners Hole
East End
Buck I.
Cayo Grnn
Scotch Bank
Pt. de St. Cruz
White Horse
ANGUILLA (British)
Scrub I.
Island Harb.
Snake Pt.
Shoal R.
Middle Bk.
Seal Is.
East Cay
Mid C.
W. Cay
Dog I.
Prickly Pear Cays
Dowlings Shoal
Crocus Bay
Flat Cap
Custom H.
Road B.
Meeting H.
Mead Pt.
S. Wager
Anguillita I.
Blowing Rock
Rendezvous Bay
Shaddick Pt.
Boat Harbour
Forest Pt.
Sandyhill Bay
Gibbon Pt.
St. MARTIN (N. Part French S. P. Dutch)
Tintamarre I.
North Pt.
Grole R.
Gr. Case Bay
Orient B.
Marigot
Plum Pt.
Terre Basse Pt.
Flamand B.
Oyster Pond
Hollibeday R.
Guano Cay
Philipsburg
Pelican Pt.
Gr. Bay
Blanche I.
Table R.
Groupers
Fourche I.
Boulanger I.
Fregatte I.
Toc Vers
St. Jean Bay
Grenadiers
Tortue
Goat I.
Colombier Pt.
Gustavia
Fort
Toiny Pt.
Roques
Negre Pt.
Coco
St. BARTHOLOMEW (French)
18°
18°
63°
W. of Gr. 65°
Scale, 1: 887,040; 14 English Miles to 1 Inch
10
5
0
10
20
30
40

The Virgin Islands were again represented at the Canadian National Exhibition. The exhibits consisted of samples of cacao, coffee, arrowroot, starch, sugar, raw and concentrated lime juice, cassava starch, rum, cotton, and lace and drawn-thread work.

T. A. V. Best,
Colonial Secretary,
Leeward Islands.

Antigua,
14th January, 1914.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
759	Sierra Leone	1912
760	Seychelles	"
761	Somaliland	1912–1913
762	Hong Kong	1912
763	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
764	Falkland Islands	"
765	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
766	Bahamas	"
767	Gambia	"
768	Fiji	"
769	Basutoland	1912–1913
770	Gold Coast	1912
771	Ashanti	"
772	Nyasaland	1912–1913
773	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
774	British Solomon Islands	"
775	Colonial Survey Committee	"
776	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1911–1913
777	Swaziland	1912–1913
778	Imperial Institute	1912
779	Barbados	1912–1913
780	British Guiana	"
781	Entomological Research Committee	"
782	Southern Nigeria	1912
783	Jamaica	1912–1913
784	British Honduras	1912
785	Northern Nigeria	"
786	Malta	1912–1913
787	Uganda	"
788	Mauritius	1912
789	Straits Settlements	"
790	Trinidad and Tobago	1912–1913
791	East Africa Protectorate	1912–1913
792	Grenada	1912

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 841.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1913-14.

(For Report for 1912–13 see No. 793.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
May, 1915.

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No. 841.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report of 1912-13 see No. 793.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,

21st January, 1915.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Annual Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the financial year 1913-14, prepared by the Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. Auchinleck.

2. The year was an uneventful one and a satisfactory position was maintained in each of the Presidencies. The returns of revenue show a steady increase during the past five years; not due to the imposition of any additional taxation, but to general development. The increase is specially noticeable in the case of Dominica, where the prosperity of the people and the extension of agricultural enterprise are showing remarkable progress.

3. I regret that the appearance of this report should be so late, but I am informed that the delay is mainly due to the fact that a new classification of the imports and exports, required by the Board of Trade, greatly retarded the preparation of the returns in the various Presidencies.

4. It has, at last, been possible to provide sketch-maps of each of the islands. With the exception of the one of Dominica they are the work of the recently-appointed Superintendent of Public Works, of Antigua. I understand that no publisher has rights over the map of Dominica which is enclosed, and that we are consequently free to use it for the Blue Book report.

I have, &c.,

H. HESKETH BELL,

Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

(C139) Wt.36076/850. 1125 & 90. 6.15. B.&F.Ltd. Gp.11/2.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS, FOR THE YEAR 1913-1914.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies constituting the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1914, was £174,456 12*s.* 10*d.*, showing an increase of £1,976 12*s.* 1½*d.* in comparison with the revenue for the year 1912–13.

2. The following table shows the amount of revenue collected in each Presidency during the last two years, as also the increase or decrease as compared with 1912–13 :—

Presidency.	1912–13	1913–14	Increase 1913–14 over 1912–13	Decrease 1913–14 under 1912–13
	£	£	£	£
Antigua	53,490	52,218	—	1,272
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	57,078	53,880	—	3,198
Dominica	45,185	48,142	2,957	—
Montserrat ..	11,932	12,881	949	—
Virgin Islands ..	4,795	7,335	2,540	—
Total .. £	172,480	174,456	6,446	4,470

3. The year 1913–14 is the first year since 1899 that no grant has been made from Imperial funds towards the Agricultural Department.

4. The following is a return showing the number of licences issued in the Leeward Islands in 1913 for the sale of intoxicating liquors, and the revenue derived therefrom :—

Presidency.	No. of Licences.	Revenue. £ *s.* *d.*
Antigua	24	866 10 0
St. Kitts-Nevis	48	1,709 0 0
Dominica	130	1,275 0 0
Montserrat..	46	191 5 0
Virgin Islands	14	30 10 0

5. The aggregate expenditure for the year 1913-14 (exclusive of that in respect of the Agricultural Department from Imperial grants-in-aid) was £171,128 1*s.* 2*d.*, as against £162,266 15*s.* 8½*d.* for the year 1912–13, showing an increase of £8,861 5*s.* 5½*d.*

6. The expenditure of each Presidency during the last two years is shown in the following table, as is also the increase or decrease as compared with 1912–13 :—

Presidency.	1912–13	1913–14	Increase 1913–14 over 1912–13	Decrease 1913–14 under 1912–13
	£	£	£	£
Antigua	53,193	51,018	—	2,175
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	53,415	55,061	1,646	—
Dominica	40,123	47,482	7,359	—
Montserrat ..	10,556	11,531	975	—
Virgin Islands ..	4,980	6,036	1,056	—
Total .. £	162,267	171,128	11,036	2,175

7. The expenditure on the Agricultural Department from the balance of the Imperial grant for 1912–13 was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Antigua	4	19	2
St. Kitts-Nevis	57	14	8
Dominica	89	15	4
Montserrat..	47	17	4
Virgin Islands	8	1	3
Total ..	£208	7	9

8. The surplus of assets over liabilities on the 31st March, 1914, amounted to £84,282 1*s.* 2½*d.*, which was made up as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Antigua*	7,078	2	10½
St. Kitts-Nevis	29,116	17	5
Dominica	28,826	3	7½
Montserrat..	16,194	9	6½
Virgin Islands	3,066	7	9
Total	£84,282	1	2½

9. The assets and liabilities of the Colony on the 31st March, 1914, as compared with the assets and liabilities on the 31st March, 1913, are shown below :—

	1912–13			1913–14		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Assets..	91,807	10	8½	93,562	1	7½
Liabilities	10,854	1	1½	9,280	0	5
Surplus of Assets ..	80,953	9	7	84,282	1	2½

The surplus of assets for the Island of Barbuda amounted to £2,178 10*s.* 5½*d.*

---

* Exclusive of a floating liability of £500 due to the Imperial Treasury for excess of grants made in 1907.

10. The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounts to £266,650.

11. The following table shows the amount of the loans raised, and the sums standing to the credit of the sinking funds at the 31st March, 1914 :—

Presidency.	Total amount of loans raised.	Amount to credit of Sinking Fund.		
	£	£	*s.*	*d.*
Antigua ..	.. 123,300	45,918	3	3
St. Kitts-Nevis	.. 67,250	21,316	3	5
Dominica ..	.. 65,000	21,970	14	7
Montserrat ..	.. 11,100	3,267	9	1
Total	.. £266,650	£92,472	10	4

MUNICIPALITIES.

12. The Government of the City of Saint John, Antigua, is vested in five Commissioners, under the control of the Governor in Executive Council. Two of the Commissioners must be persons not holding any office of emolument under the Crown.

There is also a Town Committee in Basseterre, St. Kitts, and a Town Board in Roseau, Dominica.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total value of imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1913, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £563,858, as against £617,332 in 1912, being a decrease of £53,474.

The total value of the exports, exclusive of internal trade, was £577,256, as against £544,703 in 1912, showing an increase of £32,553.

The following tables exhibit the value of the imports and exports during the last two years, exclusive of internal trade :—

Imports.

Year.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Mont-serrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1912	168,274	252,637	154,776	31,492	10,153	617,332
1913	159,397	197,539	167,190	31,787	7,949	563,858

Exports.

Year.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Mont-serrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1912	164,968	187,961	147,962	36,594	7,218	544,703
1913	138,219	203,626	190,701	37,409	7,301	577,256

Imports and Exports.

Year.	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Mont-Serrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1912	333,242	440,598	302,738	68,086	17,371	1,162,035
1913	305,796	403,662	366,291	74,171	15,698	1,165,618

IMPORTS.

The following table exhibits the value of the imports for each of the last two years, distinguishing the countries whence the imports came, and showing the increase or decrease in 1913, as compared with 1912 :—

Country whence Imported.	1912.	1913.	Increase 1913 over 1912.	Decrease 1913 under 1912.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ..	252,088	222,506	—	29,582
British Colonies.. ..	113,483	123,036	9,553	—
United States of America	220,016	181,381	—	38,635
Other Foreign Countries	31,745	36,935	5,190	—
Total .. £	617,332	563,858	14,743	68,217

EXPORTS.

The value of the exports during each of the last two years, distinguishing the countries to which the exports were sent, and showing the increase or decrease in 1913, as compared with 1912, is shown in the following table:—

Countries to which exported.	1912.	1913.	Increase 1913 over 1912.	Decrease 1913 under 1912.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ..	240,635	229,585	—	11,050
British Colonies ..	215,359	185,672	—	29,687
United States of America	57,611	79,783	22,172	—
Other Foreign Countries	31,098	7,130	23,968	—
Total	544,703	502,170	46,140	40,737

The value of the trade between the Presidencies for the years 1912 and 1913 was as under:—

Year.	Value.
	£
1912	42,034
1913	45,833

Sugar.

The quantity of sugar exported from each Presidency during the years 1912 and 1913 is shown below:—

Presidency.	1912.	1913.
	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	11,639	10,142
St. Kitts-Nevis	10,554	10,853$\frac{1}{5}$
Dominica	—	—
Montserrat	104	55$\frac{1}{4}$
Virgin Islands	—	—
Total	22,297	21,050$\frac{9}{10}$

Cotton.

The following is a return of cotton exported from the Presidencies of Antigua (including Barbuda), St. Kitts-Nevis (including Anguilla), Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands, during the years 1912 and 1913.

Presidency.	1912.		1913.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£
Antigua	80,910	5,099	186,023	11,668
St. Kitts-Nevis	663,726	42,823	722,122	45,133
Montserrat	289,234	19,448	299,812	20,103
Virgin Islands	47,131	2,753	35,478	2,270
Total	1,081,001	70,123	1,243,435	79,174

MANUFACTURES, MINES, AND FISHERIES.

21. Sugar is the principal manufacture in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis. In St. Kitts the distilling of rum is of some importance.

The staple in Dominica and Montserrat is lime juice. The production of citrate of lime in those islands is being developed. There is a sulphur mine at Soufrière, in Dominica, but it is not worked at present. Phosphate of lime is found in Babuda, and phosphate of alumina in Redonda.

There is no recognised fishing industry in the Colony. Fish are caught for local consumption only, except in the Virgin Islands, whence large quantities are exported to the neighbouring Danish island of St. Thomas.

The principal fish caught are:—Kingfish, barracouta, margate, snapper and cavally. Lobsters are also plentiful.

Sea fishing with rod and reel, as a pastime, has been introduced with considerable success, especially in the waters of Antigua. A spoon-bait is most generally used. Many tarpon have been taken by rod and reel off Barbuda.

LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

The value of land in the Colony varies in accordance with its suitability for the cultivation of sugar-cane or other products. In Dominica Crown lands can be purchased at 10*s*. an acre. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane-growing land varies from £4 to £8 an acre.

In Antigua there are over 2,000 acres of Crown land at Piccadilly, Red Hill, and the Ridge, on which there is much valuable timber. In the event of the erection of a sugar factory in that district, favourable sections of these lands will doubtless be taken up for the cultivation of sugar-cane.

SHIPPING.

Comparing the figures with those for the year 1912, there was a decrease of 137,472 tons in vessels entered and cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1913.

The following table shows the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in each Presidency during each of the last two years, including both steam and sailing vessels, and the increase or decrease in 1913 as compared with 1912 :—

Presidency.	1912.	1913.	Increase 1913 over 1912.	Decrease 1913 under 1912.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	653,355	606,654	—	46,701
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	684,455	560,522	—	123,933
Dominica ..	578,892	572,222	—	6,670
Montserrat ..	253,525	293,227	39,704	—
Virgin Islands ..	13,067	13,195	128	—
Total ..	2,183,292	2,045,820	39,832	177,304

* AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES DURING 1913.

Sugar Industry.

The growing season in 1912-13 was once more very dry in Antigua; in St. Kitts the rainfall during the earlier part of the year was very deficient and the outlook appeared to be for a very poor return; in the month of September, however, good rains fell, and up to the time of reaping the crop the precipitation was decidedly favourable and well distributed.

The prices experienced during this season had declined from the high level of the preceding year; consequently the conditions may be regarded as on the whole unfavourable.

For the year 1913 the exports of sugar from Antigua amounted to 10,138 tons, of which 8,517 tons were 96° crystals and 1,621 tons were muscovado.

In St. Kitts-Nevis the exports of sugar for the crop amounted to 11,312 tons of which 6,515 tons were grey crystal sugar and 4,797 tons were muscovado. The operations of the Basseterre factory resulted in a further increase in the output of crystal sugar and a very satisfactory season of work must be recorded in respect of that institution.

Owing to the low price of sugar a certain amount of interest arose in connection with the manufacture of syrups on muscovado estates as a substitute for muscovado sugar; the relatively high price which was obtainable for this commodity rendered its production more remunerative than sugar making, and consequently an appreciable fraction of the sugar crop of the two Presidencies was exported in this form.

---

* By [illegible] A. Tempany, Esq., B.Sc., F.I.C., F.C.S., D.S., Supt. of Agriculture, Leeward Islands.

Cane syrups, or, as they are termed, "fancy molasses," have for a number of years formed an article of export from the neighbouring Colony of Barbados, but the present is the first occasion on which they have been produced, except in small quantities, in this Colony.

Considerable assistance was rendered by the Agricultural Department in directing the operations of planters in this connection, and eventually it was found possible for sugar growers to manufacture a thoroughly marketable article.

At the Antigua Sugar Factory 7,415 tons of sugar were made, while to produce this 70,349 tons of cane were ground, thus taking 9·49 tons of cane to make a ton of sugar. At the St. Kitts Factory the total tons of sugar made amounted to 6,226·6, and 54,338 tons of cane were ground to produce it, an average of 8·73 tons of cane to a ton of sugar.

In the season 1913, 2,094 tons of peasants' cane were purchased by the Antigua Sugar Factory.

During the year important extensions and additions were made to the Bendals Sugar Factory, Antigua, the improvements including the addition of a new mill, a 10-ton vacuum pan and a central Torricellian condensing plant. At the same time the constitution of the management of the factory was remodelled and the concern floated as a limited company, while the area of the cane supply to the factory was increased to include a number of adjoining estates. The result has been to increase the capacity of the factory to a maximum output of about 4,000 tons, while, at the same time, it provides opportunity for the opening up in cane cultivation of considerable areas of land in the south-western district of the island which have for many years remained only partially cultivated in other crops.

The Cotton Industry.

The exports of cotton for the two crop years 1911-12 and 1912-13 are given in tabular form below :—

	1911–12.	1912–13.
Antigua and Barbuda ..	80,910 lbs.	172,023 lbs.
St. Kitts	332,168 ,,	374,594 ,,
Nevis	165,329 ,,	166,477 ,,
Anguilla	97,142 ,,	112,138 ,,
Montserrat	346,568 ,,	292,182 ,,
Virgin Islands	51,677 ,,	31,775 ,,
Total	1,073,794 ,,	1,149,189 ,,

The exports for 1912-13 exceeded those for 1911-12, but were less than those of 1910-11. From the point of view of the cotton grower the season must again be described as moderately satisfactory.

The only serious attack experienced from pests and diseases occurred in the case of Montserrat during the months of April, May, and June, when cotton stainers in very large numbers appeared in the fields ;

owing to the condition of the crop at the time, no damage was done. The matter was energetically taken in hand by the planters and by the Department of Agriculture, and eventually the pest became greatly reduced in numbers. On this occasion a small arachnid parasite was discovered infecting stainers, but the efficiency of this as a factor in their control has not as yet been definitely settled.

The cotton industry may now be said to have settled down on a firmly established basis, while in home markets the Colony, in common with other West Indian islands, is becoming recognised as a definite and important source of supply of fine Sea-Island cotton. At all points a considerable store of knowledge has now been accumulated by growers as to the best methods to be adopted in producing the crop.

Fluctuations in the area planted and in the yield produced per acre may be expected to occur from year to year as the result of variation of season and of fluctuations in demand and in market price. The permanence of the industry is now contingent on two factors—namely, (1) the continuation of satisfactory market conditions, and (2) the non-appearance of any wholesale destructive agency in the shape of disease which may jeopardize the existence of the industry.

Lime Industry.

The lime industry in Montserrat continued to suffer during the year from attacks of pests and diseases. These have continued to form the subject of investigations by the Agricultural Department, and a considerable series of spraying trials were laid out in this connection. The exports of limes and lime products from Montserrat for 1913 were valued at £5,916.

In Antigua interest in lime cultivation as a minor industry under suitable conditions continues to be sustained; a moderate area has now been planted up in the crop. The demand for plants fell off somewhat during the year in consequence of planters' requirements having been filled to a considerable extent. Young plantations suffered somewhat severely from dry weather during the year. Exports of limes and lime products from Antigua were valued at £1,515. The cultivation of limes continues to attract a certain amount of attention in Nevis, while in Tortola, Virgin Islands, the small peasant lime-growing industry has made some little advance.

Coconuts.

The year 1913 is remarkable as being the first year in which commercial shipments of coconuts were made from any Presidency except Dominica. During the latter months of the year the plantation at Pinneys Estate, Nevis, commenced to yield commercial quantities of nuts from the older planted trees, and by the end of December about 30,000 nuts had been shipped to New York, the returns experienced being quite encouraging. Interest in the crop continues to expand, and the planting up of suitable lands is proceeding, although somewhat slowly. In Antigua a moderate area has now been established, and in a short time some of the older trees should begin to yield commercial quantities of nuts.

In the Virgin Islands also some interest has been evoked in the crop, and this form of cultivation is being vigorously advocated by the Agricultural Department, a demonstration area having been planted near Roadtown, Tortola, while every inducement is being offered to the local cultivators to extend cultivation. The Virgin Islands possess considerable areas well adapted to coconut cultivation.

Other Minor Industries.

Onions have continued to be cultivated as a subsidiary article of export in the majority of the Presidencies. In Antigua considerable efforts were made during the year to improve the condition of this industry by the organization of packing and shipping on a co-operative basis, an Association of Onion Growers having been formed for this purpose under the auspices of the Agricultural Department and the Agricultural and Commercial Society. In the past the industry has suffered from neglect of proper precautions in the direction of curing and packing, and attention to these points is likely to be productive of important improvement in the conditions of the industry.

The cultivation of vanilla has continued to attract attention in suitable localities, especially in Nevis. There does not appear to be any reason to doubt that scope exists for the further development of this industry in favourable situations.

Arrowroot and pappain have continued to form small items of export from Montserrat, while in that island, and also in Antigua and Tortola, some attention is being directed to the possibilities contained in the cultivation of the bay tree (*Pimenta acris*) with a view to the export of bay leaves and bay oil.

An important development that took place during the year lay in the direction of the attention of planters to the possibilities contained in the extension of the cultivation of maize for internal consumption and also, possibly, for export. The imports of maize and its products into the Colony at the present time are valued at a very considerable figure ; for example, the imports of maize and cornmeal into Antigua alone during the years 1910 to 1912 inclusive reached a value of £47,819, while for the whole Colony the imports of corn and cornmeal during 1912 were valued at £30,414. Of the total imports Antigua takes about three-fifths and St. Kitts-Nevis one-third, the imports into the remaining Presidencies being very small.

Natural conditions obtaining in the Colony are favourable to the production of maize, the main difficulty in the past having been the successful storage of the product. In order to facilitate development towards the end of the year plans were formulated at the instance of His Excellency Sir H. Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Colony, for the erection in Antigua of a small kiln drying plant with a view to conducting commercial experiments on kiln drying of maize for the purpose of improving its keeping qualities. The successful issue of these experiments should, it is anticipated, afford a considerable impetus to the development of the industry throughout the Colony.

Agricultural Shows.

Shows of agricultural produce and stock were successfully held during the year at Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, and Montserrat. As usual, they were conducted under the joint auspices of the Agricultural Department and the local agricultural and commercial societies.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Nine Federal Acts and 48 Presidential Ordinances were passed during the year 1913, none of which calls for any special remark.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The number of children on the registers of the Government and grant-aided schools in the Colony during the year 1913–14 was 26,514, as against 24,880 in the year 1912–13. The average daily attendance was 13,281, as against 11,173 for the previous year.

The following table exhibits the number of children on the registers, and the average attendance in the elementary schools of the several Presidencies or islands of the Colony, together with the percentage of those registered in the whole Colony who were in average attendance during the last two years :—

Presidency or Island.	On Registers.	
	1912–13.	1913–14.
Antigua	6,461	6,666
St. Kitts, with Anguilla	6,076	6,419
Nevis	3,046	3,238
Dominica	5,562	5,957
Montserrat	3,131	3,178
Virgin Islands	604	1,056
Total	24,880	26,514

Presidency or Island.	Average Attendance.	
	1912–13.	1913–14.
Antigua	3,182	3,513
St. Kitts, with Anguilla	1,995	3,215
Nevis	1,506	1,569
Dominica	2,617	2,693
Montserrat	1,564	1,720
Virgin Islands	309	571
Total	11,173	13,281
Per cent. for whole Colony ..	44·9	50·08

The following table gives the percentage of children on the rolls in average attendance during the year 1913–14 as compared with the average attendance in 1912–13 :—

Presidency or Island.	Percentage in Average Attendance.	
	1912–13.	1913–14.
Colony	44·9	50·08
Antigua	49·2	52·70
St. Kitts, with Anguilla	32·8	50·08
Nevis	49·4	48·45
Dominica	48·8	45·20
Montserrat	49·9	54·12
Virgin Islands	51·1	54·07

The cost of elementary education was derived from the sources shown below :—

	School Fees.	Government Grant.	Voluntary Contribution.
	£	£	£
Antigua	21	1,889	114
St. Kitts, with Anguilla ..	—	1,691	271
Nevis	—	861	83
Dominica	12	2,469	—
Montserrat	—	737	88
Virgin Islands	18	226	108
Total	51	7,873	664

The following list of the secondary schools of the Colony shows the amount granted in 1913–14 from local funds in aid of such schools :—

	£
Antigua Grammar School (*)	440
Antigua Girls High School (†)	125
Thomas Oliver Robinson Memorial School, Antigua ..	25
St. Kitts Grammar School (‡)	666
Miss Wattley's School, St. Kitts (§)	115
Miss Bridgewater's School, Nevis (‖)	74
Dominica Grammar School (¶)	444
Montserrat High School	150

The sum of £150 was granted from Federal funds in aid of the Moravian Training College for Females, Antigua, and the sum of

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* Includes £90 for scholarships of £10 each.

† Includes £25 for scholarships of £5 each.

‡ Includes £150 for agricultural and science master, who is also attached to Agricultural School ; also £294 school fees repaid to the head master.

§ Includes £40 for scholarships of £8 each.

‖ Includes £24 for scholarships of £8 each.

¶ Includes £66 for scholarships.

£60 was provided for the training of six male students at the Mico College, Jamaica, three of whom are selected annually after open competition at the pupil teachers' examination.

St. John's Training School.

There is one industrial school in the Colony, viz., the St. John's Training School in Antigua, established under the provisions of the Leeward Islands Act No. 4 of 1891, for the reformation, education, and training of persons under 18 years of age. The number of boys in the school on the 1st April, 1913, was 67.

The daily average for the year of the boys admitted from the several Presidencies, compared with the previous year, was as follows :—

	1912–13.	1913–14.
Antigua	33·2	38
St. Kitts-Nevis	14·3	18
Dominica	4·5	7
Montserrat	5·2	6
Virgin Islands	—	—
Total	57·2	69

The health of the school was very satisfactory. The boys were employed, as in former years, in agricultural and garden work, in addition to the various duties concerned with the indoor department of the school.

The Presidencies contribute at the rate of £10 a year for each boy sent to the school.

The revenue from all sources amounted to £451 and the expenditure (including pensions, £112, and the estimated value of the rent of the school and Chief Officer's quarters, £70) to £907.

A practical effort has been made to fit the boys for a good start in life when they leave the school. A number of the most promising are now apprenticed to responsible craftsmen in St. John's, while still remaining inmates of the school. They receive a small wage, which is put to their credit, and forms a fund to provide them with an outfit.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

In the year 1913, 3,827 patients, as against 2,557 for the previous year, were admitted into the hospitals of the Colony. There were 354 deaths, as against 384 for 1912.

There is a central lunatic asylum in Antigua. On the 1st January, 1913, there were 129 inmates (70 males and 59 females) ; 53 (23 males and 30 females) were admitted ; 27 (14 males and 13 females) were discharged as cured ; and 27 (20 males and 7 females) died.

There are two leper asylums in the Colony; one at Rat Island in Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles in St. Kitts.

In Antigua there were 33 lepers (16 males and 17 females) at the beginning of the year; 6 males and 2 females were admitted during the year, and 1 male died.

There is no record in Antigua of any attendant at the asylum having contracted leprosy.

The number of inmates in the Antigua poor-house on the 1st January, 1914 was 101 (40 males, 54 females, and 7 children); 154 inmates were admitted during the year and 149 discharged.

The number of persons who received outdoor relief in the Colony during 1913 was as follows:—Antigua, 400; St. Kitts, 1,000; Nevis, 600; Dominica, 155; Montserrat, 98; and the Virgin Islands, 60.

The Alexandra Cottage Home for Incurables, Dominica, which is supported partly by voluntary contributions, maintained on an average 10 paupers.

St. John's Training School in Antigua has been dealt with under Part IV, Education.

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank and the amounts at their credit on the 31st March, 1914, are noted below:—

Presidency	No. of Depositors.	Amount at credit. £
Antigua	2,142	44,614
St. Kitts-Nevis	888	32,934
Dominica	952	18,015
Montserrat	256	5,665
Virgin Islands	106	837
Total	4,344	£102,065

The following table shows the number of depositors and amounts deposited and withdrawn in the Colony for the last two years:—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Deposited.	Withdrawn.
		£	£
1912	4,103	36,294	34,882
1913	4,344	40,244	35,259

The total amount of invested funds is £103,687.

The revenue amounted to £3,313 and the expenditure to £3,042.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The total number of persons in the Colony committed to prison during the year 1913 was 906 (528 males, 358 females, and 20 juveniles).

The number of committals in Antigua was 221, as against 243 in 1912.

The number of prisoners transferred from the other Presidencies to the Central Prison, Antigua, was as under :—

Presidency.	Males.	Females.	Total.
St. Kitts-Nevis	11	3	14
Dominica	9	3	12
Montserrat	5	—	5
Virgin Islands	—	—	—
Total	25	6	31

The prisoners were employed in the usual service of the prison, such as in cooking for the prisoners and the boys at the training school; cleaning, washing, making and mending clothing and bedding for the prison and the training school; baking bread for the prison, hospital, poor house, lunatic and leper asylums, and training school; also in quarrying and stone-breaking, smithy-work, masonry, and carpentry. The annual cost of the maintenance of each prisoner to Antigua was £20 3*s*. 8*d*.

The following table gives the total number of offences reported during each of the last two years, together with the convictions and acquittals in each year :—

Year.	Offences reported.	Convicted.	Acquitted.
1912	14,121	6,620	2,734
1913	13,988	6,812	6,225

4,285 cases were reported to the police, while 13,988 persons were brought before the magistrates. The number of summary convictions was 6,812.

The number of convictions in the Superior Courts was 44; 6,214 persons were acquitted in the Inferior Courts, and 11 in the Superior Courts.

Comparative table showing the number of Offences, Apprehensions, and Acquittals for the last two years :—

	1912.	1913.
The number of offences reported to the Police	3,765	4,285
The number of persons brought before the Magistrate	14,121	13,988
The number of summary convictions :—		
1. Offences against property with violence to the person	—	—
2. Offences against property ..	818	705
3. Other offences against the person	1,229	1,183
4. Other offences	4,573	4,924
Total	6,620	6,812

The number of convictions in the Superior Courts:—		
1. Homicide	—	—
2. Offences against property with violence not amounting to homicide	—	—
3. Other offences against property	19	18
4. Other offences against the person	6	5
5. Other offences	4	21
Total	29	44
The number of persons acquitted:—		
1. In the Inferior Courts	2,724	6,214
2. In the Superior Courts	10	11
Total	2,734	6,225

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Colony according to the census of 1911 was 127,193, distributed as follows:—

Island.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Antigua	13,634	17,760	31,394
Barbuda	351	520	871
St. Kitts	10,969	15,314	26,283
Nevis	5,521	7,424	12,945
Anguilla	1,562	2,513	4,075
Dominica	15,231	18,632	33,863
Montserrat	5,245	6,951	12,196
Redonda	4	—	4
Virgin Islands	2,613	2,949	5,562
Total	55,130	72,063	127,193

METEOROLOGICAL.

The average rainfall in Antigua from January to December, 1913, on 73 stations, was 42·76 inches.

The average rainfall for the 40 years 1874 to 1913 was 44·43 inches, so that the precipitation for the year under review was 1·67 inches below the average.

The highest rainfall recorded was in 1889, when there were 73·59 inches, and the lowest in 1875, with 28·78 inches.

The highest maximum temperature was 92°, on 8th September.

The lowest minimum temperature was 61°, on 5th June.

Seven slight shocks of earthquake were recorded, viz., on the 23rd January, 29th May, 23rd June, 3rd and 24th July.

VIII. POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the following lines :—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (fortnightly), the East Asiatic Company (once a month), and the Quebec Steamship Company (about twice a month).

The mails are between Tortola and St. Thomas and between Tortola and Virgin Gorda by a sloop belonging to the Government, and by private boats, as follows :—

From Tortola to St. Thomas about four times a week ; and from Tortola to Virgin Gorda, about six times a month. There is a daily mail service by sailing boat between St. Kitts and Nevis, and a fortnightly mail service by sailing boat between St. Kitts and Anguilla. A sloop is also subsidized by the Government of Montserrat to take mails and passengers between that Presidency, Antigua, and St. Kitts.

Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other, the other West Indian Colonies, Europe, and America by the cables of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company. There is no communication by telegraph with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands. St. Kitts is in heliograph communication with Nevis.

Telephone services have been established in Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica.

The following statement shows the volume of the transactions of the Colony in postal matter during the last two years :—

Year.	Letters and Cards received and sent.	Books and Papers received and sent.	Parcels received and sent.
1912	821,745	233,160	15,606
1913	840,871	240,010	18,319

The total value of money orders issued in the Colony was £24,172 1*s*. 11*d*., as against £23,926 8*s*. 2*d*. in 1912, and the total value of the orders paid was £27,078 0*s*. 0*d*., as against £25,874 8*s*. 11*d*. in the previous year. The money order transactions were distributed between the Presidencies as follows—those for St. Kitts and Nevis being shown in the case of each island :—

	Money Orders Issued.			Money Orders Paid.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Antigua	5,767	16	6½	7,965	6	7
St. Kitts	4,102	7	1½	6,294	10	9
Nevis	776	7	2	3,017	4	2
Dominica	7,749	6	1	2,213	3	4
Montserrat	3,566	4	0	4,809	4	11
Virgin Islands ..	2,210	1	0	2,778	10	3
	£24,172	1	11	£27,078	0	0

The net profit on the working of the Post Offices of the Colony was £4,159 10*s.* 9*d.*, as against £2,058 6*s.* 11*d.* in 1912.

In Antigua there are 194 telephone instruments in use, and 320 miles of wire; in St. Kitts 140 instruments and 310 miles of wire; and in Dominica 131 instruments and 435 miles of wire.

The receipts and expenditure in connection with the telephone service of the Colony during the year under review were as under:—

Presidency.	Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Antigua	917	9	10	846	3	7
St. Kitts	649	1	3	620	6	11
Dominica	630	6	9	900	7	1

ANTIGUA.

The revenue of the Presidency for 1913–14 was £52,217 17*s.* 10*d.* and fell short of the estimates by £336 2*s.* 2*d.*

As compared to the previous year the receipts of 1913–14 decreased by £1,769 chiefly in duties on imports.

Expenditure, which had been estimated at £53,328 15*s.* 6*d.* was under that sum by £2,311 6*s.* 6*d.*, this saving or decrease having been consequent upon the non-completion within the financial year of the estimated work of laying new water pipes in St. John's and by the deferred erection of a maternity ward at the Hospital.

The very desirable removal from the northern entrance to St. John's of the dilapidated and insanitary collection of huts known as "Hyndman's Village" was carried out. The former site of this village has been transformed into an open, clean and well drained space free from the possibility of mosquito infection.

Work on laying out the model village at Clare Hall was also undertaken during 1913–14. The erection and occupancy of seven cottages, provided with ample yard accommodation, and each having a neat enclosed garden in front, serve as valuable object lessons to such villagers as appear to be contented with their squalid and overcrowded huts.

Until 1913 the residents in St. John's were annually subject to the inconvenience of having their water services restricted if not actually locked off for periods of from four to six weeks during the dry months of the year. The erection of a large dam in 1912 across the Body Pond stream obviated this inconvenience and provided the city with an ample water supply throughout 1913.

It is satisfactory to be able to point out that, notwithstanding the prevailing low prices of sugar during 1913, with the consequent restriction in expenditure by sugar plantations, the charges on Hospital and Poor House show a slight decrease on the previous year.

The excess of assets of the Presidency increased from £5,877 14*s.* 0½*d.*, as on 31st March, 1913, to £7,078 2*s.* 10*d.* on the 31st March last.

*ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

The revenue of the Presidency during 1913–14 showed a great falling off as compared with the preceding year, the figures being £57,237 in 1912–13, and £53,880 in 1913–14. This fact is not due, however, to any serious diminution in the average yield of any of the sources of revenue but to the circumstance that the receipt of the two years preceding were abnormally large owing to special circumstances which have ceased to exist. If the average for the past five years be taken it will be found that the revenue for 1913–14 has been up to the mark. The estimate was exceeded by £1,531. The expenditure was £55,060 17*s.* 7*d.* of which £2,853 4*s.* 9*d.* was for Public Works Extraordinary. The total estimate of expenditure including that from surplus funds had been £60,344, but sundry circumstances prevented some of the works from being carried out. The close of the year showed the Presidency's surplus funds to be £29,116 17*s.* 5*d.*

Trade was not good during 1913, and the values both of imports and exports fell considerably: imports from £256,728 in 1912 to £200,036 in 1913, and exports from £192,534 in 1912 to £188,537 in 1913. The decreased value of sugar may safely be quoted as the principal cause contributing to the diminished trade.

A review of the year would be incomplete without reference to the high reputation which cotton produced in the Presidency, especially in St. Kitts, has gained in the market. So much is this the case that it has now become necessary to consider what steps should be taken to prevent the shipment to England as St. Kitts cotton of an inferior product sent from other islands to St. Kitts to be shipped, and described as coming from the latter place.

More attention has been given recently to the needs of the sister islands of Nevis and Anguilla, the improvement of the water supply and the establishment of the telephone in the former island and the construction of new roads in the latter being notable instances.

The death of the late Superintendent of Public Works and the considerable interval which necessarily elapsed until the arrival of his successor, prevented the carrying out of sundry works which had been in contemplation, but it is hoped that these works may now shortly be commenced.

The visit of Dr. St. John Brooks, the Bacteriologist sent out to report on the sanitary state of the ports of the Colony with special reference to the dangers of plague, has done much to stimulate interest in sanitary questions, and will result, doubtless, in improving existing conditions. Some time, however, must necessarily elapse before effect can be given to all his recommendations.

Much improvement has taken place in the principal hospital of the Presidency (the Cunningham Hospital, St. Kitts) and it is now in a creditable condition. One result of this is that the general public are now taking much more interest in the institution than was formerly the case.

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* By His Honour T. Laurence Roxburgh, Esq., C.M.G., Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis.

The treatment of yaws by means of Salvarsan in special wards continues to be vigorously prosecuted with excellent results both in St. Kitts and in Nevis.

General conditions in the Presidency continue satisfactory. If there has been little increase of prosperity, there has certainly been no destitution.

The people have continued law-abiding and loyal, and respect for authority has been well maintained.

*DOMINICA.

The revenue for 1913–14 was the largest on record, amounting to £48,143, or £2,843 more than in the preceding year. The principal increase appears under Customs, which realised £2,025 more than in 1912–13.

The expenditure was also the highest on record, as it reached the sum of £47,572, on account of an unusual outlay on public works, chiefly jetties, buildings, and bridges.

The year closed with a surplus of assets amounting to £28,827, of which £15,000 is invested by the Crown Agents for the Colonies as a reserve fund, and the balance is available for the prosecution of public works.

The public debt is £65,000 against which the Crown Agents hold as sinking fund £21,972.

Both imports and exports reached record figures, the former amounting to £175,590 and the latter to £190,701.

Comparing the above results of the year 1913–14 with those of ten years ago it will be realised how much the island has progressed financially in that period. The figures for 1904–5 are as follows :—

Revenue	£32,402
Expenditure	32,715
Surplus	5,245
Imports	91,088
Exports	63,016

In other words the expenditure ten years ago exceeded the revenue, and that notwithstanding an Imperial grant of £1,420 in that year, while the exports were about £28,000 less in value than the imports. In ten years the imports have almost doubled in value, and the exports are three times their value in 1904–5. These satisfactory conditions are due to the success which has attended the cultivation of limes, and to the satisfactory prices which are being realised for them and their products.

Administrator Young went on leave on the 10th of May, 1913, and Major J. A. Burdon, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Barbados, acted as Administrator until the 27th of March, 1914, when, consequent upon Mr. Young's promotion to be Administrator of St. Lucia, Mr. Edward Drayton, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Grenada, who was appointed to succeed him, arrived and assumed the administration.

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* By His Honour E. R. Drayton, Esq., C.M.G., Administrator, Dominica.

*PROGRESS IN THE CHIEF INDUSTRIES.

LIME INDUSTRY.

General Conditions.

It is satisfactory to be in a position to record another advance in the output of the staple industry of Dominica. Calculated in number of barrels the crop for 1913 amounted to 391,207 barrels of fruit, an increase of 21,207 over the crop of 1912.

The lime crop for the past five years calculated in barrels of fruit is recorded below :—

1909	284,000	barrels.
1910	369,000	,,
1911	355,000	,,
1912	370,000	,,
1913	391,000	,,

The flour barrel which is generally used for measuring limes varies slightly in size, but the average capacity may be placed at 4·55 cubic feet. When filled to the top with limes the weight of the contents is approximately 160 lb. Calculated on this basis the weight of the crop gathered during 1913 was 31,000 metric tons.

The weather conditions were favourable and the rainfall again below the average. Unlike most countries, Dominica, owing to its high mountains and large area of forest, suffers from an excess of rain. Consequently a decrease in the annual precipitation is generally regarded as beneficial to the plant industries.

Scale insects on the whole appear to have been kept under control by the beneficial action of fungus parasites. Dominica is highly favoured in this respect, the climatic conditions being such as to maintain in full vigour and activity the several species of fungus which are known to prey upon scale insects. Still it should be borne in mind that this favourable combination is the result of a delicate adjustment of conditions, any displacement of which might tend to make lime cultivation in Dominica both difficult and expensive. Many planters will remember the after effects of the heavy falls of volcanic ash in the island during the eruption of Mont Pelée in Martinique in 1902. The dust appeared to affect adversely the insect and fungus parasites of scale insects. The latter unchecked overran lime plantations. For two years their attacks inflicted great loss upon planters. In time conditions again became normal, and there has been no general outbreak since.

Market rates for concentrated lime juice and citrate of lime maintained a high level throughout the year. Never, since the industry assumed importance, has there been such a favourable year for lime growers.

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* By Joseph Jones, Esq., Curator, Dominica.

The satisfactory returns per acre have led to the more general application of manures to lime fields. It is hoped that these efforts will continue, and that in a short time all growers will recognise that each tree must receive an application of suitable manure yearly if good crops are to be obtained and maintained.

The steady demand for lime seedlings continues, it being estimated that 300 acres are planted each year. This having gone on over a considerable period, there is annually a fairly large addition to the area of bearing cultivation.

Raw Lime Juice.

There was a considerable falling off in the export of this product, which was largely due to a decreased demand in Canada. The exports of lime juice during the past four years are as follows :—

1910	203,792 gallons.
1911	311,377 ,,
1912	508,766 ,,
1913	336,728 ,,

During the year the Secretary of the Canadian and West Indian League drew attention to a report issued by the Chief Government Analyst, Ottawa, dealing with the adulteration of lime juice in Canada.

The report states that " out of thirty samples analysed, only five fully met the requirements of the standard set by law. Although several others approximate more or less closely to it, the report shows that no less than fifteen were adulterated according to the Act, while quite 30 per cent., as the Government Analyst points out, bore unmistakable evidence of having been reduced by the addition of water.

" The standard fixed by the Government for lime juice is that it shall contain at least 10 per cent. of solids and 7 per cent. of citric acid. Of the fifteen samples declared as adulterated, the report shows that ten contained less than 6 per cent. of citric acid, while three contained as little as 4·55, 3·78, and 3·50 per cent., or little more than one-half of the legal proportion. In the quantity of solids, of the same fifteen samples analysed, no less than 11 contained less than 7 per cent., while one of these had only 5·1 of solids, and one actually had only 3·6 or about one-third of the proportion prescribed by law. One of the samples, which [illegible] analysis proved it to contain only 3·50 of citric acid, showed unmistakable signs of dye having been added to give the article sold the colour of lime juice.

" In justice to the British West Indies, it may well be added that whatever adulteration occurs does not take place there, but in the countries where the article is prepared."

In this connexion it may be stated that old established British firms in the lime juice trade consider it of the highest importance to take every possible precaution to secure a high grade juice for use as a beverage. Such firms, in the interest of their business, find it necessary to possess their own lime estates in the West Indies in order that the fruits and the juice may be dealt with and shipped under expert management. Great care is taken that only sound, ripe fruit is passed through the mill, all unsound limes being carefully excluded. The fruit is washed before crushing. The mills are fitted with three granite rollers, the first two of which lightly crush the fruit. This strong pure juice is used for making beverages, the second juice being converted into citrate of lime. After milling, the first juice must be stored in clean sound casks for shipment. All the appliances used, including the mill, must be kept in a clean condition.

Carefully prepared first juice can reach the manufacturers in Britain and Canada with very little loss of acid, and without the addition of preservatives, to which latter course there are many objections.

If a sound business in lime juice is to be built up by Canadian firms, it will be necessary for them to make arrangements to obtain supplies in the West Indies which have been prepared under the best conditions.* This may be largely due to inexperience in purchasing and handling lime juice. A strong, pure juice will cost more, but in the end will prove satisfactory to both suppliers and manufacturers.

The keeping qualities of raw lime juice have recently been the subject of investigation by the Assistant Curator (see *Agricultural News*, Vol. XI, page 180).

In this case strong, medium, and weak juices were stored for twelve weeks in open casks. The loss of acid at the end of six and twelve weeks is given below :—

	Six weeks loss of acid.	Twelve weeks loss of acid.
Strong juice	1·7 per cent.	12·4 per cent.
Medium „	3·6 „	18·9 „
Press „	70·0 „	93·0 „

The above rate of loss is minimised in the case of raw juice for export, which is kept no longer than is necessary before being placed in closed casks for shipment. But the point to be remembered is that under equal conditions the weaker juice will deteriorate at a more rapid rate than the strong juice.

The above investigation shows how very necessary it is for makers of beverages to purchase high grade, carefully prepared lime juice. It is difficult to see how medium juice can meet the requirements of the Government standard in Canada for the pure article if the time required to place it upon the market is taken into consideration.

Citrate of Lime.

Compared with the year 1912, there was a considerable increase in the output of this product, but the production is still below that of the years 1910 and 1911. The shipments for the past two years are as follows :—

Year.	Quantity cwt.	Value £
1912	3,910	11,991
1913	4,753	17,026

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* Several firms already do this, but evidently others (probably new to the business) have failed to do so.

Fresh Limes.

The trade in fresh limes continues to expand. The number of barrels of fruit shipped was 43,832, an increase on the shipments during 1912 of 6,794. The year is remarkable on account of the high prices paid for fresh limes, prices which reached a level never expected even by those planters with unbounded confidence in this section of the lime industry.

Of the limes exported, the New York market took 43,026 barrels, and Canada by direct shipment 265 barrels. It is well understood that the latter market is supplied mainly by way of New York. The exports to the United Kingdom totalled 367 barrels, a decrease of 956 when compared with the shipments during 1912. Other small markets are Bermuda and Barbados, which took 103 and 71 barrels respectively.

In the last progress report reference was made to the action taken by a business house in New York which handles the bulk of the fresh limes exported from Dominica, in appointing their own agent in Roseau to look after their local interests. The step taken has worked well, and has resulted in improvements in packing, and in raising the standard of the fruit shipped.

The market for fresh limes is very active during March, April, and May of each year—months during which the production fails to meet the demand. Owing to the high prices prevailing at this period, the question arises whether it is not possible by cultural methods to increase the production during the months named. There is certainly need for experiments in this direction and it is hoped these will be undertaken by planters interested in this trade.

Lime Oils.

Prices of otto of limes, which is obtained by hand process, continued at a high level. Much ingenuity has been shown during recent years in attempts to devise and place upon the market a machine capable of extracting the oil from the fruits more speedily and at a cheaper rate than is possible by the old fashioned system of ecuelling. In the progress report for 1912–13 reference was made to a machine invented for this purpose by two local planters. Information has recently come to hand to the effect that the cream separator is suitable for the purpose of separating the oil from lime juice, or in practice on estates, from the skimmings of the juice after sufficient dilution. Trials will shortly be made to test this statement.

The market rates for essential oil of limes, which is obtained by process of distillation, again ruled low.

The total value of lime oils shipped during 1913 was returned at £9,833.

The exports of lime products during 1913 were as follows :—

Product.	Quantity.	Value. £
Concentrated lime juice ..	158,974 galls.	60,842
Raw lime juice	336,728 „	15,083
Raw juice cordial	4,654 „	349
Green limes	43,832 barrels.	39,298
Pickled limes	616 „	231
Citrate of lime	4,753 cwt.	17,026
Essential oil of limes	5,370 galls.	3,625
Otto of limes	1,505 „	6,208
	Total	£142,662

The increase in values over the crop of 1912 amounted to £45,989.

CACAO.

The export of cacao during 1913 was 9,560 cwt. valued at £24,759. This is 2,317 cwt. below the amount exported during 1912. Under existing conditions there appears to be no hope of the further development of this industry. Only the hardiest varieties can be successfully grown in the island, and then only if cultivated in sheltered areas near to the coast where the rainfall is low and there is ample protection from the wind.

Except in one or two instances there has been no development of this cultivation on estates for a number of years, the capital and energies of planters being almost exclusively devoted to furthering the interests of the lime industry.

For a long period cacao remained the favourite industry of small growers. During recent years the peasants have followed the example set by estates and now devote their attention to the cultivation of the hardy and profitable lime.

The exports of cacao during the past two years are recorded below :—

Year.	Quantity Cwt.
1912	11,877
1913	9,560

COCONUTS.

In the progress report for 1912–13 it was mentioned that, though the export of coconuts was growing, but little attention had been given during recent years to the planting of new areas, although local climatic conditions were highly satisfactory for this cultivation.

Since that time a considerable change has taken place Under the direction of a syndicate, a very large area in the La Soye District is now being planted in coconuts, and similar efforts, though on a smaller scale, are going on in other parts of the island. Should the areas now being planted be successfully brought to the fruiting stage, coconut cultivation will by that time have become an important local industry.

The export of coconuts during the past two years is given below :—

Year.	Number.
1912	539,791
1913	448,747

Although the export of coconuts was lower than during 1912, it is clear that there has been no falling off in production. The difference in number exported is explained by the fact that very large quantities of selected nuts have been laid down in nurseries for the purpose of supplying the considerable local demand which has arisen for plants.

MINOR PRODUCTS.

The quantities and values of the minor products exported during 1913 are given below :—

			£
Oranges	1,425	barrels.	1,119
Orange-oil	165	gallons.	582
Bay-leaves	443	cwt.	371
Bay-oil	116	gallons.	333
Starches	404	cwt.	377
Coffee	25	cwt.	70
Hardwood	77,903	feet.	811

*MONTSERRAT.

FINANCIAL.

The prosperity of Montserrat continued during the financial year ended 31st March, 1914. The revenue was £12,881, the expenditure £11,531, and the surplus of assets at the close of the year £16,194, an increase of £1,350 on the year's transactions.

2. The revenue and expenditure for the last two years were as follows :—

Year.	Revenue. £	Expenditure. £
1912–13	11,932	10,556
1913–14	12,881	11,531

The revenue for 1913–14 exceeds that of all previous years except 1911–12 when abnormal receipts from customs duties, owing to money being plentiful from the proceeds of sales of cotton (the crop for 1910–11, valued at £30,398, the largest on record), coupled with the fact that the small growers had neglected the planting of vegetables for the cultivation of Sea Island cotton, swelled the total.

---

* By His Honour Lt.-Col. W. B. Davidson-Houston, C.M.G., Commissioner of Montserrat.

3. The customs duties in 1913–14 were £1,075 less than the receipts in 1911–12, £300 of this amount being accounted for by loss through reciprocity with Canada under the Preferential Tariff Agreement, which came into operation in June, 1913. This loss of revenue was, however, to a great extent, counterbalanced by proceeds from sale of postage stamps. The Montserrat 3d. and the Leeward Islands 3d. and 1s. stamps were issued in this Presidency in November, 1913, on surface tinted paper with white back. This led to a rush for them by dealers and collectors, the sales during the year amounting to £1,890, the highest on record.

4. There is nothing in the expenditure which calls for particular comment except the expenditure of £518 in extending the pipe-borne water supply in the country districts and £50 in the acquisition of land, which marks the inauguration of a scheme for the improvement of the town of Plymouth and the erection of new Government Offices.

5. The S.S. "Cobequid" of the R.M.S.P. Co., which called at this port on the 15th December, 1913, was the first of the new line of steamers between Canada and the West Indies.

6. The total value of the imports during the year 1913 was £36,762 and the value of exports £37,409, the total trade of the Presidency being thus £74,171, a decrease of £8,407 as compared with the figures for the previous year. There was a falling off in flour and corn meal of £1,239 and in haberdashery and hardware of £3,200, while there were small increases under various heads. The decrease of £4,600 in exports is mainly due to the shipment of lime juice and lime juice products early in 1914, part of the 1913 crop usually shipped during the year in which produced. There was also a falling off of £1,200 in the value of muscovado sugar shipped, owing to the cultivation of this crop being neglected for Sea Island cotton.

7. The returns of imports and exports show the direction of trade to be as follows:—

Imports.

	1912–13.	1913–14.
United Kingdom	35 %	39 %
British North America	15 ,,	22 ,,
United States of America ..	12 ,,	17 ,,
Other places	38 ,,	22 ,,

Exports.

	1912–13.	1913–14.
United Kingdom	75 %	71 %
British North America	2½ ,,	6 ,,
United States of America ..	4 ,,	4 ,,
Other places	18½ ,,	19 ,,

The total tonnage of shipping inwards and outwards during the last two years was as follows:—

1912	225,579
1913	293,227

Of the total in 1913, 245,794 was steam tonnage—all British. There were six sailing vessels on the local shipping register, aggregating 134 tons.

*AGRICULTURE.

Agriculturally the season 1913–14 was one of average returns, the distribution of the rainfall for the staple crop, Sea Island cotton, being decidedly unfavourable.

The experience of recent years has shown that this crop is very appreciably influenced by the manner of precipitation of the rainfall, increasing amounts during the four months succeeding the planting of the seed giving the best returns. Earlier planting is now in vogue, and whereas a few years ago June and July were the general planting months, the bulk of the crop is now planted in April and May, and this has several advantages.

That the crop is eminently suited for the small grower, who has access only to a few acres of land, is shown by the fact that 147 bales out of a total of 776 bales shipped in 1913–14 were in lots of less than three bales, chiefly on behalf of small growers.

The crop was fairly readily disposed of, in spite of the complaints from the brokers about the lack of "fineness," etc., though while some of the neighbouring islands were receiving as much as 1*s*. 10*d*. per lb. of lint, the highest price received for Montserrat cotton was 1*s*. 7½*d*. per lb. The relation of environment to quality in cotton is a matter that needs investigation.

The exports of lime products for the calendar year 1913 are not quite comparable with the figures given for previous years, owing to the shipment of part of the 1913 crop early in 1914. Adding these shipments to the actual exports in 1913, the total crop is still 50,000 gallons of raw juice short of the crop produced in 1912, the shipments in the latter year being considerably below the average for the previous seven years, so that the position so far as the lime industry is concerned is decidedly retrograde.

A series of unfavourable seasons is undoubtedly accountable to a large extent for the decline in vigour of much of the area in this cultivation.

Of minor industries that are capable of considerable expansion, there are the onion, pineapple, and bay oil industries. The development of the onion industry will depend on securing a larger market, Canada probably offering the most inducement.

The Montserrat pineapple, though small in size, is of excellent flavour, and a market that would ensure a gross return of 6*d*. to 9*d*. per pine would probably lead to the industry assuming larger proportions.

---

* By W. Robson, Esq., Curator, Montserrat.

The planting of bay trees, from which bay oil is distilled, is being pursued with a considerable amount of vigour, and with the assistance of the Agricultural Department, who raise the slips for planting, 20 acres a year can be established.

*VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The revenue of the Virgin Islands for the year under review was £7,335, being £2,540 in excess of the previous year, and the largest on record, with the exception of 1911–12, which was £8,200, for very many years.

The expenditure of the year was £6,036, or £1,036 in excess of that of the previous year.

The excess of revenue over expenditure amounted to £1,299, which raised the surplus funds of the Presidency from £1,769 to £3,066. The increase of revenue over that of 1912–13 is entirely due to cotton belonging to that year being brought to account in 1913–14 and to an abnormal sale to dealers of the new issue of postage stamps.

The total value of imports at the 31st December, 1913, amounted to £8,397, and the exports to £7,301, making the total trade of the Presidency £15,698, or £1,883 less than that of 1912. The decrease was due to a general falling off of imports, owing to less money being in circulation consequent on another short cotton crop, and to the fact that there was a plentiful supply of potatoes and other ground provisions, which curtailed the importation of food stuffs. The importation of lumber and building materials also fell off owing to no public works of any importance being carried out during the year.

The agricultural and commercial undertakings carried on at the Government factory were well maintained.

The exportation of cotton lint was 55,307 lbs. as compared with 29,173 lbs. last year. The lime industry has made steady progress. During the year two proprietors manufactured their own concentrated juice instead of selling their limes to the Government factory as heretofore. The factory exported 784 gallons of concentrated lime juice, an increase of 148 gallons over the previous year.

The amount of sugar canes received at the factory was 120 tons, being 20 tons more than last year.

A demonstration plot of 5 acres of coconuts was planted at the experiment station and is making splendid progress. This demonstration plot has had the desired effect. Two capitalists have purchased land, and are planting a considerable area in coconuts, and the culture is being taken up most enthusiastically by the peasants.

---

* By His Honour T. L. H. Jarvis, Commissioner of the Virgin Islands.

The rainfall was 37·55 inches, being 14·74 inches below the average during the last 13 years.

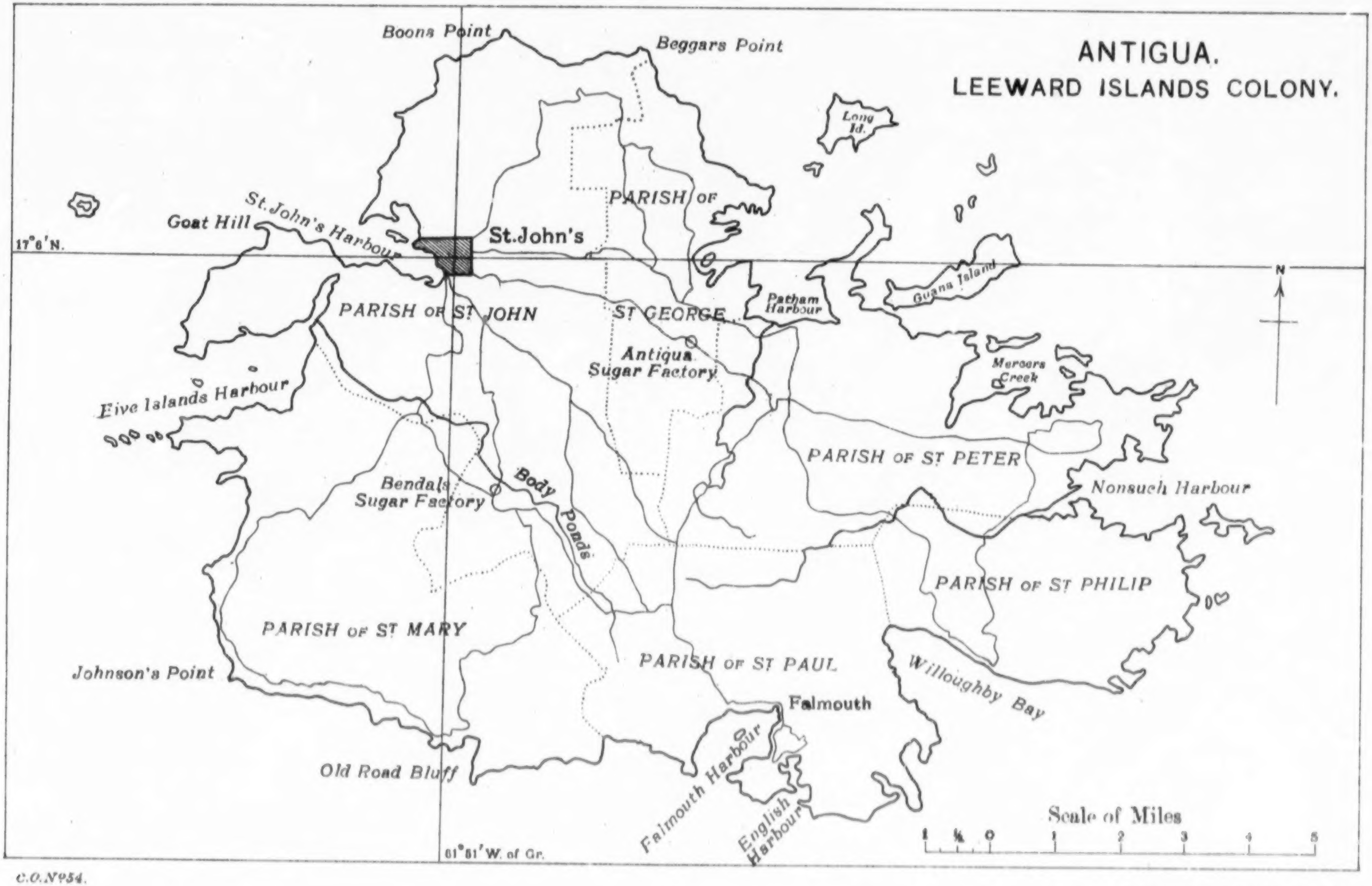
The health of the Presidency was, as usual, good. There were no quarantinable diseases and no epidemic.

The number of births was 184, as against 203 in 1912. The number of deaths was 71, as against 96 in 1912. The birth-rate was 32 per 1,000 of the population, and the death-rate 12.

The Virgin Islands were represented at the Canadian National Exhibition, at Toronto, for the eighth time, and were awarded a bronze medal and a diploma of merit.

W. D. AUCHINLECK,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Leeward Islands,
21st January, 1915.



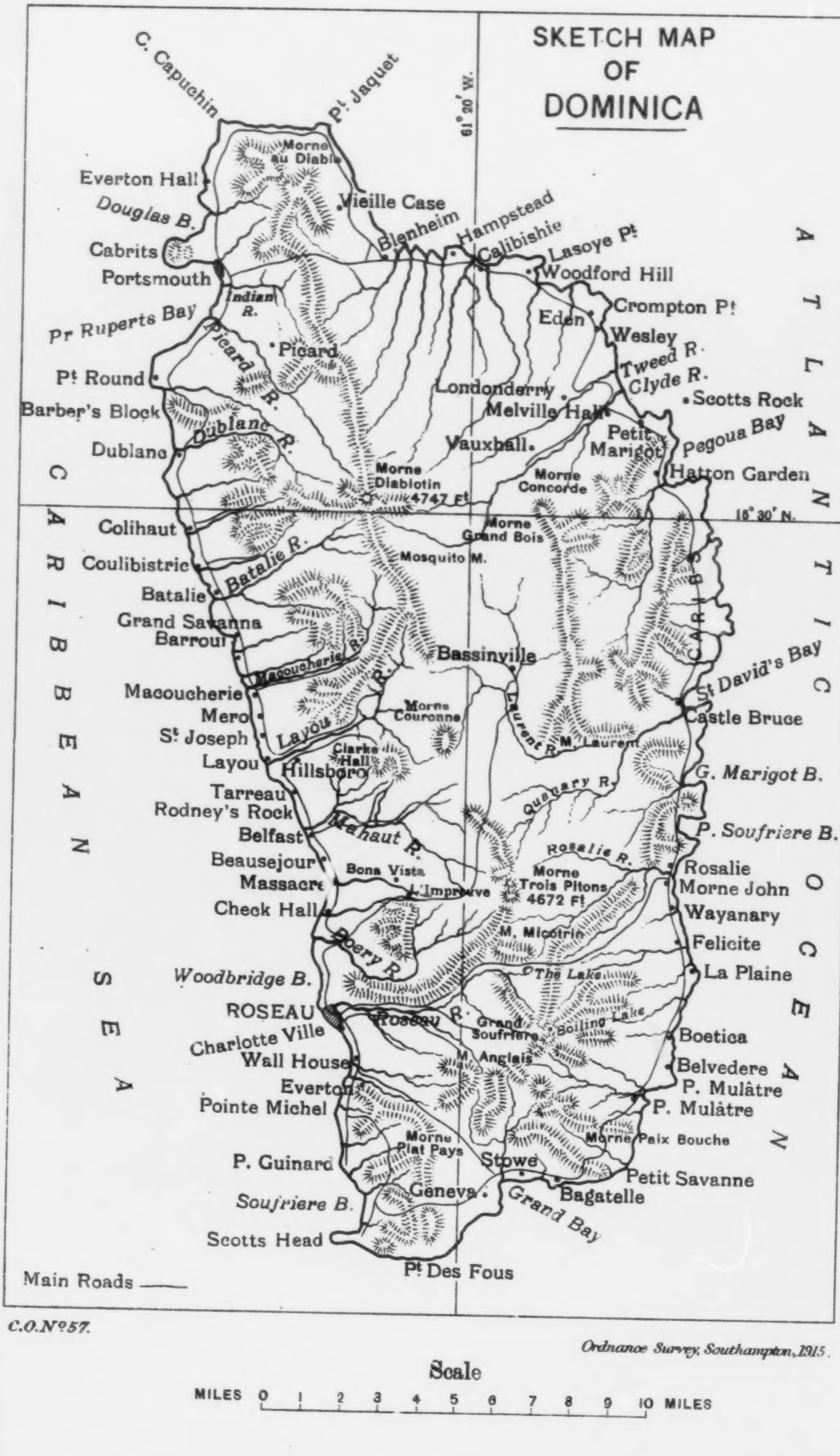
ANTIGUA.

LEEWARD ISLANDS COLONY.

Boons Point
Beggars Point
Long Id.
Goat Hill
St. John's Harbour
St. John's
PARISH OF
ST GEORGE
17°6'N.
Patham Harbour
Guana Island
N
PARISH OF ST JOHN
Antigua Sugar Factory
Mercers Creek
Five Islands Harbour
PARISH OF ST PETER
Bendals Sugar Factory
Body Ponds
Nonsuch Harbour
PARISH OF ST PHILIP
PARISH OF ST MARY
PARISH OF ST PAUL
Willoughby Bay
Johnson's Point
Falmouth
Old Road Bluff
Falmouth Harbour
English Harbour
Scale of Miles
1
½
0
1
2
3
4
5
61°51' W. of Gr.

C.O. No. 54.

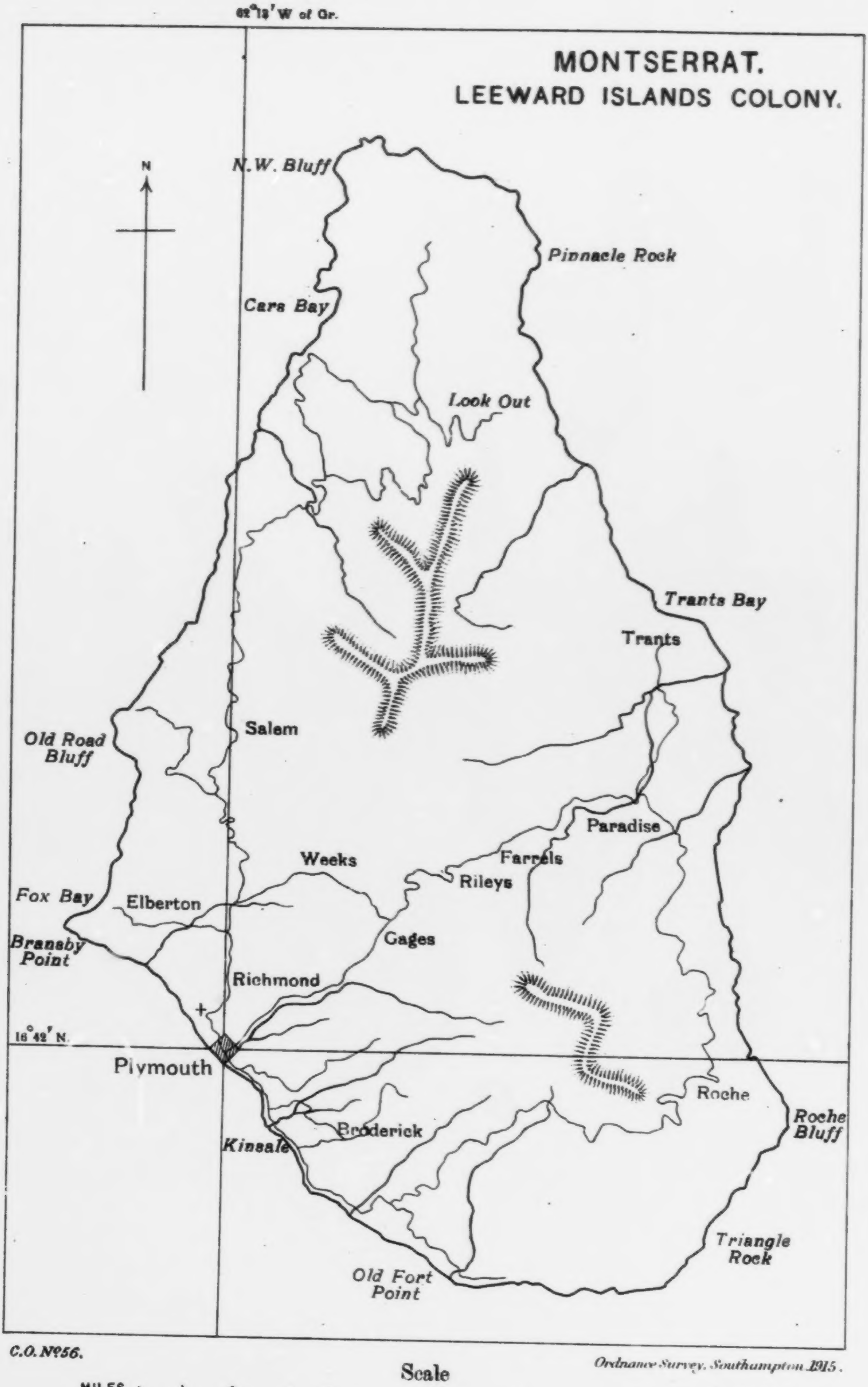
Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1915.


SKETCH MAP OF DOMINICA
61° 20' W.
15° 30' N.
ATLANTIC OCEAN
CARIBBEAN SEA
C. Capuchin
Pt Jaquet
Morne au Diable
Everton Hall
Vieille Case
Douglas B.
Blenheim
Hampstead
Calibishie
Lasoye Pt
Cabrits
Portsmouth
Woodford Hill
Indian R.
Crompton Pt
Eden
Pr Ruperts Bay
Wesley
Picard
Picard R.
Tweed R.
Clyde R.
Pt Round
Londonderry
Scotts Rock
Barber's Block
Melville Hall
Petit Marigot
Pegoua Bay
Dublanc R.
Vauxhall.
Dublanc
Morne Diablotin 4747 Ft
Morne Concorde
Hatton Garden
Colihaut
Morne Grand Bois
Coulibistric
Batalie R.
Mosquito M.
Batalie
Carib
Grand Savanna
Barroui
Macoucherie R.
Bassinville
Layou R.
St David's Bay
Macoucherie
Mero
Morne Couronne
Castle Bruce
St Joseph
Layou
Laurent R.
M. Laurent
Clarke Hall
Hillsboro
G. Marigot B.
Quanary R.
Tarreau
Rodney's Rock
Belfast
Mahaut R.
P. Soufriere B.
Rosalie R.
Beausejour
Bona Vista
Rosalie
Massacre
L'Imprevue
Morne Trois Pitons 4672 Ft
Morne John
Check Hall
Wayanary
M. Micotrin
Felicite
Boery R.
The Lake
La Plaine
Woodbridge B.
ROSEAU
Roseau R.
Grand Soufriere
Boiling Lake
Boetica
Charlotte Ville
M. Anglais
Wall House
Belvedere
P. Mulâtre
Everton
P. Mulâtre
Pointe Michel
Morne Paix Bouche
Morne Plat Pays
P. Guinard
Stowe
Petit Savanne
Geneva
Bagatelle
Soufriere B.
Grand Bay
Scotts Head
Pt Des Fous
Main Roads
MILES 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 MILES

C.O.No57.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1915.

Scale



62°13' W of Gr.
MONTSERRAT.
LEEWARD ISLANDS COLONY.
N
N.W. Bluff
Pinnacle Rock
Cars Bay
Look Out
Trants Bay
Trants
Salem
Old Road Bluff
Paradise
Farrels
Weeks
Rileys
Fox Bay
Elberton
Bransby Point
Gages
Richmond
16°42' N.
Plymouth
Roche
Roche Bluff
Broderick
Kinsale
Triangle Rock
Old Fort Point
Scale
MILES 1 ½ 0 1 2 3 4 5 MILES

C.O. No. 56.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton 1915.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
811	Fiji	1913
812	Ashanti	"
813	Basutoland	1913–1914
814	Hong Kong	1913
815	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1913–1914
816	Imperial Institute	1913
817	Falkland Islands	"
818	Malta	1913–1914
819	Trinidad and Tobago	"
820	Jamaica	"
821	Northern Nigeria	1913
822	Grenada	"
823	Zanzibar	"
824	Barbados	1913–1914
825	Southern Nigeria	1913
826	Mauritius	"
827	British Honduras	"
828	Colonial Survey Committee	1913–1914
829	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
830	Swaziland	"
831	Uganda	"
832	Nyasaland	"
833	British Guiana	"
834	Imperial Bureau of Entomology	1914
835	St. Vincent	1913–1914
836	St. Lucia	"
837	Somaliland	1913–1914
838	Straits Settlements	1913
839	Cayman Islands	1913–1914
840	East African Protectorate	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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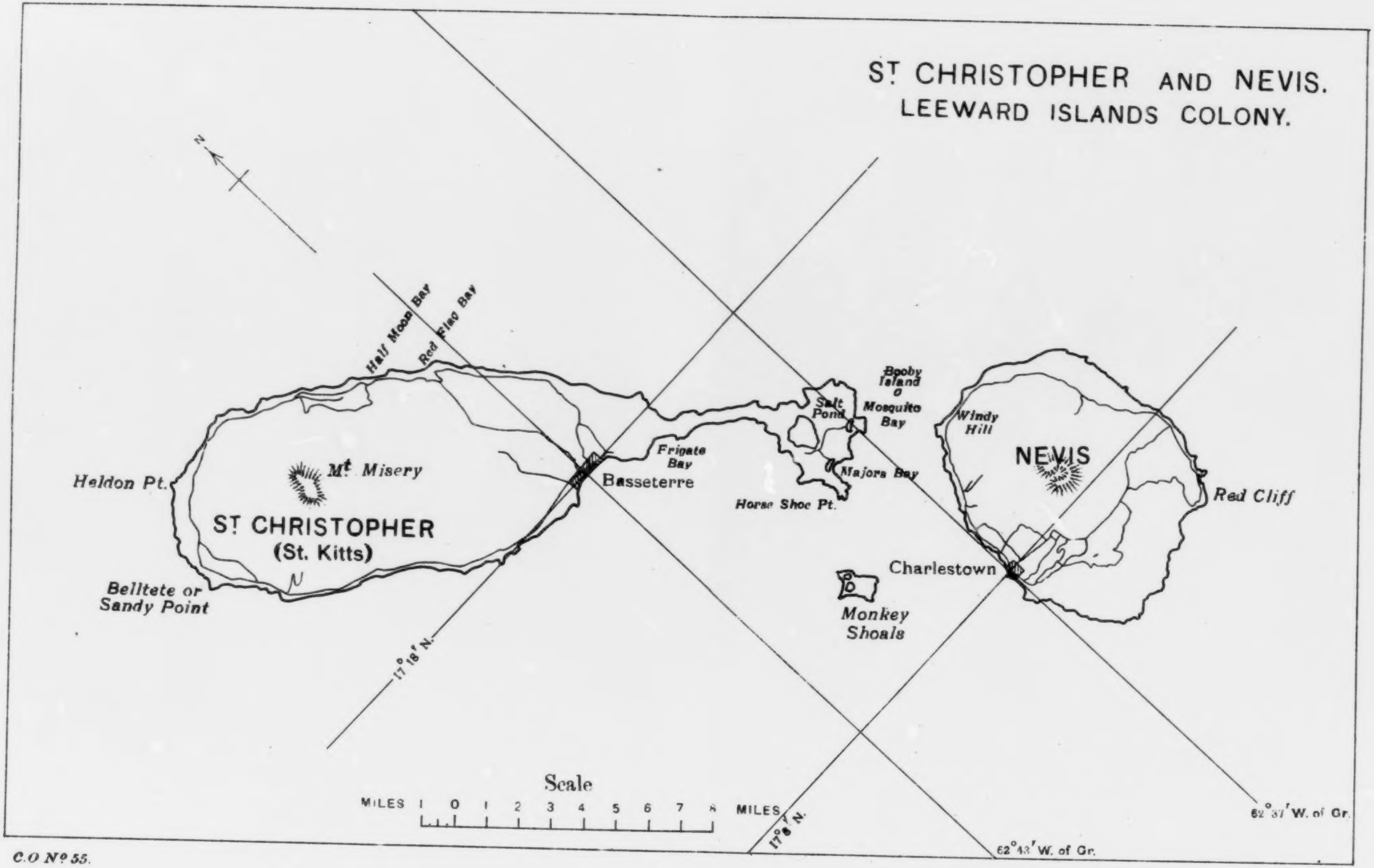

ST CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS.
LEEWARD ISLANDS COLONY.

N
Half Moon Bay
Red Flag Bay
Heldon Pt.
Mt Misery
ST CHRISTOPHER
(St. Kitts)
Belltete or
Sandy Point
Basseterre
Frigate
Bay
Horse Shoe Pt.
Salt
Pond
Booby
Island
Mosquito
Bay
Majors Bay
Monkey
Shoals
Windy
Hill
NEVIS
Red Cliff
Charlestown
17° 18′ N.
17° 7′ N.
62° 43′ W. of Gr.
62° 37′ W. of Gr.
Scale
MILES 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 MILES

C.O No 55.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1915.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 876.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1914-15.

(For Report for 1913–14 see No. 841.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
February, 1916.

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[Maps will be found in the previous Report, No. 841: [Cd. 7622-32.]

No. 876.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1913–14 see No. 841.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
29th December, 1915.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Annual Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the financial year 1914–15, compiled by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. T. A. V. Best.

2. Although there was a small decrease of revenue as compared with the transactions of the preceding year, the general situation during 1914 was satisfactory. There was a considerable increase in the value of both imports and exports and in every Presidency trade showed a steady degree of expansion. Efforts were made to foster new industries and the prospects, in almost every direction, are encouraging.

3. As soon as possible after the outbreak of war the islands were organized for defence as far as circumstances permitted. A considerable amount of anxiety was felt so long as the enemy cruisers roamed in West Indian waters, but an excellent spirit prevailed among the members of the various defence forces, and it is certain that any attack on the islands would have been vigorously resisted. The Leeward Islands have contributed a serviceable contingent to the British West Indies Regiment, and every section of the population is anxious to assist the Mother country in every way possible.

I have, &c.,

H. HESKETH BELL,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

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REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1914–15.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies constituting the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1915, was £169,327 1*s.* 4½*d.*, showing a decrease of £5,129 11*s.* 5½*d.*, in comparison with the revenue for the year 1913–14.

The aggregate expenditure for the year 1914–15 (exclusive of that in respect of the Agricultural Department from Imperial grants-in-aid) was £189,370 6*s.* 6*d.*, as against £171,128 1*s.* 2*d.* for the year 1913–14, showing an increase of £18,242 5*s.* 4*d.*

The surplus of assets over liabilities on the 31st March, 1915, amounted to £65,471 4*s.*, as compared with £84,282 1*s.* 2½*d.* on the 31st March, 1914, and was made up as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
*Antigua	5,745	14	4½
St. Kitts-Nevis	17,344	18	7
Dominica	25,499	17	4½
Montserrat..	14,465	18	3¾
Virgin Islands	2,414	15	4¼
Total	£65,471	4	0

* Exclusive of a floating liability of £250 due to the Imperial Treasury for excess of grants made in 1907.

The surplus of assets for the Island of Barbuda amounted to £2,473 18*s.* 8½*d.* on the 31st March, 1915, as compared with £2,178 10*s.* 5½*d.* at the close of the previous financial year.

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounts to £261,450.

MUNICIPALITIES.

The Government of the City of Saint John, Antigua, is vested in five Commissioners, under the control of the Governor in Executive Council. Two of the Commissioners must be persons not holding any office of emolument under the Crown.

There is also a Town Committee in Basseterre, St. Kitts, and a Town Board in Roseau, Dominica.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total value of imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1914, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £603,565, as against £563,858 in 1913, being an increase of £39,707.

The total value of the exports, exclusive of internal trade, was £605,273, as against £577,256 in 1913, showing an increase of £28,017.

The following tables exhibit the value of the imports and exports, exclusive of internal trade:—

	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	165,226	199,976	195,593	33,831	8,939	603,565
Exports	162,388	168,007	235,323	32,827	6,728	605,273

Imports.

The following table exhibits the value of the imports for each of the last two years, distinguishing the countries whence the imports came, and showing the increase or decrease in 1914, as compared with 1913:—

Country whence Imported.	1913.	1914.	Increase 1914.	Decrease 1914.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ..	222,506	232,583	10,077	—
British Colonies.. ..	123,036	150,594	27,558	—
United States of America	181,381	174,787	—	6,594
Other Foreign Countries	36,935	45,601	8,666	—
Total .. £	563,858	603,565	46,301	6,594

Exports.

The value of the exports during each of the last two years, distinguishing the countries to which the exports were sent, and showing the increase or decrease in 1914, as compared with 1913, is shown in the following table:—

Countries to which exported.	1913.	1914.	Increase 1914.	Decrease 1914.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ..	229,585	245,531	15,946	—
British Colonies ..	185,672	200,585	14,913	—
United States of America	79,783	125,518	45,735	—
Other Foreign Countries	7,130	33,639	26,509	—
Total	502,170	605,273	103,103	—

The value of the trade between the Presidencies for the years 1913 and 1914 was as under:—

Year.	Value.
1913	£45,833
1914	£35,879

Sugar.

The quantity of sugar exported from each Presidency during the year is shown below:—

	Tons.
Antigua	15,345
St. Kitts-Nevis	9,789
Montserrat	30
Total	25,164

Cotton.

The following is a return of cotton exported from the Presidencies of Antigua (including Barbuda), St. Kitts-Nevis (including Anguilla), Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands during the year.

	Quantity.	Value.		
	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Antigua	164,740	8,574	5	10
St. Kitts-Nevis	775,713	48,483	1	3
Montserrat	181,137	12,047	2	1
Virgin Islands	31,164	1,972	6	0
Total	1,152,754	71,076	15	2

MANUFACTURES, MINES, AND FISHERIES.

Sugar is the principal manufacture in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis. In St. Kitts the distilling of rum is of some importance.

The staple in Dominica and Montserrat is lime juice. The production of citrate of lime in those islands is being developed. There is a sulphur mine at Soufriere, in Dominica, but it is not worked at present. Phosphate of lime is found in Barbuda, and phosphate of alumina in Redonda.

There is no recognised fishing industry in the Colony. Fish are caught for local consumption only, except in the Virgin Islands, whence large quantities are exported to the neighbouring Danish island of St. Thomas.

LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

The value of land in the Colony varies in accordance with its suitability for the cultivation of sugar-cane or other products. In

Dominica Crown lands can be purchased at 10s. an acre. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane-growing land varies from £4 to £8 an acre.

In Antigua there are over 2,000 acres of Crown land at Piccadilly, Red Hill, and the Ridge, on which there is much valuable timber. In the event of the erection of a sugar factory in that district, favourable sections of these lands will doubtless be taken up for the cultivation of sugar-cane.

SHIPPING.

Comparing the figures with those for the year 1913 there was an increase of 557,446 tons in vessels entered and cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1914.

The following table shows the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in each Presidency during the year, including both steam and sailing vessels:—

	1914. Tons.
Antigua	833,564
St. Kitts-Nevis	754,356
Dominica	650,144
Montserrat	350,577
Virgin Islands	14,625
	2,603,266

*AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES DURING 1914.

Sugar Industry.

In Antigua the rainfall during the year 1913–14 was, on the whole, moderately favourable, and resulted in fair crops being reaped in many localities.

In St. Kitts less favourable weather was experienced, the rainfall being everywhere decidedly below the average.

The exports of sugar for the year from Antigua amounted to a total of 15,433 tons, of which 11,432 tons were vacuum pan sugar and 4,001 tons muscovado.

Of the total exports of crystal sugar from Antigua 9,131 tons were produced at Gunthorpe's Factory in the form of grey crystal sugar.

The canes handled were of only fair quality, containing a relatively large amount of fibre; this accounts for the comparatively low extraction of sugar per cent. on the cane, which amounted to 11·00 per cent.

During the crop of 1914, 2,924 tons of peasant canes were purchased by Gunthorpe's Factory.

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* By H. A. Tempany, Esq., D.Sc., F.I.C., F.C.S., Supt. of Agriculture, Leeward Islands.

From St. Kitts the total exports amounted to 9,946 tons, of which 6,132 tons were crystals and 3,814 tons muscovado.

The Basseterre Sugar Factory in St. Kitts continued operations during the year, the quality of the factory work being well maintained. Owing to the limited area from which the cane supply is derived, it has never, up to the present, been possible for the factory to work up to the full limit of its capacity, which is estimated to be equal to a crop of 10,000 tons of sugar. During the year important extensions of the factory railway line have been carried out which will bring the produce of several large estates on the Windward coast to the factory, and, it is hoped, will enable the undertaking in future years to work somewhere in the region of its full capacity.

During the earlier part of the year sugar prices ranged round the low value to which they had declined during 1913, but on the outbreak of the war at the commencement of August a sharp recovery took place, owing to the withdrawal from the market of German and Austrian supplies of beet sugar; as a result the small amounts of sugar remaining unsold in the Colony at that time realised decidedly remunerative prices. Since then the prospect of the existence of favourable market conditions for some time to come has done much to improve the outlook of the industry.

Cotton Industry.

More than any other the Sea Island cotton industry has been adversely affected by the War. The consumption of the yarns spun from lints of this character, lying as it does largely in Belgium and the districts of Northern France at present occupied by the hostile Powers, has fallen practically to zero for the time being, except in so far as sales are effected with a view to increasing spinners' stocks.

In these circumstances a very serious blow threatened the prosperity of Montserrat, Nevis, the Virgin Islands, Anguilla, and Barbuda, which are dependent on the cultivation of cotton for their staple industry, while at the same time in St. Kitts and Antigua also, where the growth of the crop constitutes a secondary industry of considerable importance, the situation was calculated to give grounds for grave apprehension.

At the time of the outbreak of the War a certain amount of the previous season's crop had still not been sold, and to the problem of disposing of the new season's crop was added that of marketing these unsold remnants. In order to ease the situation arrangements were concluded by the British Cotton Growing Association whereby growers were enabled to continue to draw against unsold cotton at rates somewhat lower than those previously in force, while the Fine Spinners' Association continued to buy in small lots from time to time for the purpose of adding to stocks in hand with the object of assisting planters and also of providing occupation for their mills and workpeople.

After reaping, much of the crop was held in the West Indies for some months owing to lack of shipping facilities and apprehension on the part of owners that heavy losses might be encountered on account of warehouse charges on unsold cotton. By March 31st, however, the bulk of the crop had been shipped.

During December and January a representative of the Fine Spinners and Doublers' Association, Mr. J. L. Fonda, visited the principal cotton-producing centres of the Colony and held conferences with the principal growers at each place in the course of which the position and outlook of the industry were fully discussed. Subsequently the Fine Spinners' Association, acting in co-operation with the British Cotton Growing Association, agreed to purchase the whole of the crop during the season 1915–16 at fixed minimum prices for cotton of satisfactory quality. As the result of this action a greatly increased prospect of stability has been given to the position of the industry, and the outlook in many of the islands materially improved.

The exports of cotton for the year 1913–14 amounted to 1,221,494 lbs.

In the majority of cases the growing season for the crop of 1914–15 was moderately favourable, but, owing to the uncertainty of market conditions, appreciable reductions in the area planted were seen in districts where planting took place after the outbreak of hostilities.

While the usual attacks of pests and diseases were encountered these were for the most part dealt with according to prescribed methods and no great amount of damage was in consequence recorded.

Lime Industry.

In Dominica the lime crop amounted to 388,011 barrels. The total exports were valued at £187,031.

In Montserrat the lime industry has continued to suffer from the attacks of pests and diseases. Investigations in relation to these have been continued during the year. It is now tolerably clear that the trouble experienced is not due to one single cause but to a combination of factors combined with a series of unfavourable seasons.

Exports of lime products from Montserrat were valued at £14,751.

Cacao.

The exports of cacao from Dominica during 1914 amounted to 8,874 cwts.; this represents a decline of 686 cwts. as compared with the previous year.

In St. Kitts the small plantations at Molineux have continued to yield fair returns but elsewhere little attention has been devoted to the crop. On the whole there is little doubt that the total amount of land in the Colony suited to cacao cultivation is decidedly limited.

Coconuts.

In Nevis the pioneer plantation at Pinneys has continued to improve. The total area of the plantation is 200 acres of which about 100 are in bearing at the present time. During the year over 112,000 nuts were reaped from the plantation, while exports were valued at £410. The success of this venture has led to arrangements being concluded for planting considerable additional areas.

From Dominica 554,549 nuts were exported during the year.

In Antigua interest in the crop has been well maintained and considerable further plantations have been effected. In Barbuda about 80 acres have now been planted in coconuts by the Government.

In the Virgin Islands the work of planting up the coconut plantation demonstration plots adjoining the Experiment Station has been proceeded with and further extensions were effected during the year. The established areas are growing well. Considerable tracts of land exist in these islands which are eminently suited for development in coconuts, and in this direction there is little doubt that profitable expansion to a considerable degree is capable of being effected.

Onions.

An important feature of the agricultural work of the year has been the efforts made to develop the co-operative packing and marketing of onions in Antigua. The Antigua Onion Growers' Association, to which reference was made in the annual Colonial Report for 1913–14, has continued operations on extended lines during the year under review with markedly successful results.

The West Indian onion crop matures during the months of January, February, and March, at which time onions from other sources are difficult to obtain, and an almost unlimited demand exists for produce of good quality.

Maize.

Considerable further efforts were made during the year under review to foster the production of maize in the Colony; for the present these efforts have been mainly confined to Antigua although their effect has been already felt in other Presidencies to some extent.

As the upshot of experiments conducted during the year the Government of Antigua decided that the kiln drying, purchase, and sale of corn, together with the manufacture of cornmeal, should be undertaken on a commercial basis with the idea of fostering the development of the industry.

The effect of these efforts is already being seen in the shape of decreased imports of maize; apart from the local markets there appears to be considerable openings for trade in maize with other West Indian Colonies, while it is hoped that developments may eventually permit of a successful export trade being developed with America and England.

Other Industries.

The existence of war conditions and the consequent uncertainty as to how far supplies of foodstuffs from outside sources could be relied on gave a considerable stimulus to the cultivation of sweet potatoes and other provision crops during the year.

The cultivation of vanilla has continued to attract attention in Dominica and Nevis; once the difficulty of curing is overcome there appears to be opening for the cultivation of this product in favourable situations.

Attempts to develop the cultivation of bay trees for the production of bay oil have continued to attract attention in Montserrat especially, where systematic experiments in this direction have been conducted by the Agricultural Department for some years past.

Small quantities of papain and arrowroot have continued to be exported from Montserrat also, while in Antigua attention has been directed to the possibilities contained in the growing of vegetables for the Canadian market during the winter months, and a number of small experimental commercial shipments have been made to ascertain how far success is likely to attend such ventures.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Eleven Federal Acts and 36 Presidential Ordinances were passed during the year.

Of the Federal Acts, No. 5 consolidates the pension law of the Colony and No. 6 the laws relating to juries. Nos. 9 and 10 were the outcome of the War; the former created the offence of trading with the enemy and the latter provided for the issue of Government currency notes, but has not, so far, been brought into force by proclamation. Nos. 3, 7, and 8 were Acts to promote the revision of the Federal Acts, of which two volumes, revising the Acts from 1871 to 1888, have now appeared under the able editorship of Sir Frederic Maxwell, Kt., the Chief Justice of the Colony.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The number of children on the registers of the Government and grant-aided schools in the Colony during the year 1914–15 was 23,658, as against 26,514 in the year 1913–14. The average daily attendance was 11,258, or 47 per cent., as against 13,281, or 50 per cent., for the previous year.

The cost of elementary education was £8,165, of which £7,904 formed the Government grant.

St. John's Training School.

There is one industrial school in the Colony, viz., the St. John's Training School in Antigua, established under the provisions of the Leeward Islands Act, No. 4, of 1891, for the reformation, education, and training of persons under 18 years of age. The number of boys in the school on the 1st April, 1914, was 70.

The health of the school was very satisfactory. The boys were employed, as in former years, in agricultural and garden work, in addition to the various duties concerned with the indoor department of the school.

A practical effort has been made to fit the boys for a good start in life when they leave the school. A number of the most promising are now apprenticed to responsible craftsmen in St. John's, while still remaining inmates of the school. They receive a small wage, which is put to their credit and forms a fund to provide them with an outfit.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

In the year 1914, 3,713 patients, as against 3,827 for the previous year, were admitted into the hospitals of the Colony. There were 266 deaths, as against 354 for 1913.

There is a central lunatic asylum in Antigua. On the 1st January, 1914, there were 128 inmates.

There are two leper asylums in the Colony; one at Rat Island in Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles in St. Kitts.

In Antigua there were 39 lepers at the beginning of the year.

The number of inmates in the Antigua poor-house on the 1st January, 1914, was 101.

The approximate number of persons who received outdoor relief in the Colony during 1914 was as follows:—Antigua, 400; St. Kitts, 1,000; Nevis, 600; Dominica, 155; Montserrat, 98; and the Virgin Islands, 60.

The Alexandra Cottage Home for Incurables, Dominica, which is supported partly by voluntary contributions, maintained on an average 10 paupers.

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank on the 31st March, 1915, was 4,160, and the amounts at their credit £104,891; £41,344 was deposited and £37,917 withdrawn during the year.

The total amount of invested funds is £105,115.

The revenue amounted to £3,606 and the expenditure to £3,110.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The total number of persons in the Colony committed to prison during the year 1914 was 1,004 (527 males, 450 females, and 27 juveniles).

The number of committals in Antigua was 241, as against 221 in 1913.

Nineteen prisoners were transferred from the other Presidencies to the Central Prison, Antigua.

The following table gives the total number of offences reported during the year, together with the convictions and acquittals:—

Offences reported.	Convicted.	Acquitted.
13,432	6,338	7,022

4,281 cases were reported to the police, while 13,432 persons were brought before the magistrates. The number of summary convictions was 6,338.

The number of convictions in the Superior Courts was 58, 7,008 persons were acquitted in the Inferior Courts, and 14 in the Superior Courts.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Colony according to the census of 1911 was 127,193.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The average rainfall in Antigua from January to December, 1914, on 72 stations, was 36·86 inches.

The average rainfall for the 41 years 1874 to 1914 was 44·25 inches, so that the precipitation for the year under review was 7·39 inches below the average.

The highest rainfall recorded was in 1889, when there were 73·59 inches, and the lowest in 1875, with 28·78 inches.

The highest maximum temperature was 91°, on 27th October and 8th November.

The lowest minimum temperature was 66°, on 7th January.

Three shocks of earthquake were recorded, viz. on the 10th and 15th October and 13th December.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and the Quebec Steamship Company.

The mails are conveyed between Tortola and St. Thomas and between Tortola and Virgin Gorda by a sloop belonging to the Government, and by private boats, as follows:—From Tortola to St. Thomas about four times a week, and from Tortola to Virgin Gorda about six times a month.

There is a daily mail service by motor boat between St. Kitts and Nevis, and a fortnightly mail service by sailing boat between St. Kitts and Anguilla. A sloop is also subsidized by the Government of Montserrat to take mails and passengers between that Presidency, Antigua, and St. Kitts.

Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other, the other West Indian Colonies, Europe, and America by the cables of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company. There is no communication by telegraph with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands. Messages can, however, be sent to Montserrat by flashlight via Antigua. St. Kitts is in heliograph communication with Nevis. A considerable reduction was made by the Company in the rates charged for messages. The reduced rates came into force on the 1st October, 1914.

Telephone services have been established in Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica. A telephone service is now being established in Montserrat.

The following statement shows the volume of the transactions of the Colony in postal matter during the year:—

Letters and Cards received and sent	881,265
Books and Papers received and sent	250,218
Parcels received and sent	17,443

The total value of money and postal orders issued in the Colony was £31,620 13*s*. 3¼*d*., as against £24,172 1*s*. 11*d*. in 1913, and the total value of the orders paid was £28,078 11*s*. 8*d*., as against £27,078 in the previous year.

The net profit on the working of the Post Offices of the Colony was £6,708 18*s*. 7½*d*., as against £4,159 10*s*. 9*d*. in 1913.

In Antigua there are 195 telephone instruments in use, and 320 miles of wire; in St. Kitts-Nevis, 189 instruments and 411 miles of wire; and in Dominica, 158 instruments and 306 miles of wire.

GENERAL.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

The news of the outbreak of war and the various measures which had been prepared for such an emergency were received throughout the Colony with calmness and the loyal co-operation of all classes. Martial law was proclaimed immediately, but very little action had to be taken under it, beyond fixing the prices of food in some of the Presidencies.

On the 1st June, 1914, communication by flashlight was opened between Antigua and Montserrat and has continued working with very few interruptions ever since.

At the end of the year the rate of postage between the Colony and the United States of America was reduced from 2½*d.* to 1*d.* an ounce.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

His Excellency Sir H. Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G., was absent from the Colony on leave of absence from the 9th May to the 27th September, 1914, during which time the Honourable T. A. V. Best, the Colonial Secretary, administered the Government of the Colony; the Honourable W. D. Auchinleck, I.S.O., the Auditor-General, acting as Colonial Secretary; and Mr. J. D. Wall, Chief Audit Clerk as Auditor-General. Mr. Auchinleck also acted as Colonial Secretary while Mr. Best was on leave of absence from October to January. Mr. H. L. Humphrys, Chief Audit Clerk, succeeded to Mr. Wall's post on his appointment in December as Auditor-General of Tonga.

His Honour Sir F. M. Maxwell, the Chief Justice, was absent from the Colony on leave of absence from the 23rd November, 1914, to the 4th June, 1915, during which time His Honour F. H. Parker, 1st Puisne Judge, acted as Chief Justice.

In January, 1915, His Honour E. R. Drayton, C.M.G., retired from the post of Administrator of Dominica and was succeeded by Arthur W. Mahaffy, Esquire, formerly Assistant to the High Commissioner of the Western Pacific.

ANTIGUA.

The revenue of the Presidency for 1914–15 was £53,516 18*s.* 0*d.*, exceeding the estimates by £38 and the revenue for the preceding year by £1,300.

The expenditure was £54,849 6*s.* 6*d.* or £649 more than had been estimated. This was £3,826 more than had been spent in 1913–14. The increase was mainly due to military expenditure and a gift of £1,000 to the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

In April, 1914, experiments were begun to ascertain whether maize grown and dried in Antigua would keep as well as imported maize. A Government corn dryer and sheller were erected and samples tested in various ways, resulting in the conclusion that local corn properly dried and stored in bins is better than imported corn and can be sold at a lower price.

Thanks to the generosity of the Rockefeller Foundation a thorough investigation into the prevalence and effects of Ankylostomiasis in Antigua was made by Dr. Eric S. Marshall. It was found that in certain districts a large percentage of the population were suffering from hookworm, resulting in much sickness and consequent loss both to the labourer and the planter.

*ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

The revenue for 1914–15 was £50,337, showing a decrease of £3,543, as compared with £53,880, of the previous year (1913–14).

The expenditure was £62,109, an increase of £7,049, as compared with the previous year.

The surplus funds of the Presidency on 31st March, 1915, were £17,345, against £29,117, in March, 1914. The reduction was mainly caused by a gift to the National Relief Fund of £5,000, and an expenditure of close on £3,000, for local defence during the War.

The total imports in 1915 were £201,277 as compared with £200,036 in 1914.

The exports were £173,754, a decrease of £29,872 as compared with 1914.

The decrease of the sugar crop owing to a long and continuous drought is the cause of this decrease of exports.

The total estimated population is 44,680, showing an estimated increase of 1,377 since the Census of 1911. 1,230 deaths were registered. Infantile mortality under one year accounted for 559 deaths.

The total number of patients treated at the hospital during the year was 834. Out of this total there were 72 deaths.

In the Yaws Hospital the total number treated was 177; all were discharged as cured. Treatment has had to be suspended and the ward closed for a time, as salvarsan, being a German preparation, was not procurable.

The general health of the population has been good. The people continue to be law abiding and loyal.

†DOMINICA.

The revenue for 1914–15 was £48,895, being an increase of £753 over 1913–14. The expenditure was £53,454, an increase of £5,972.

The lime crop for 1914 amounted to 388,011 barrels, or 3,196 below the record crop of 1913.

The fact that the output has been practically maintained is due to the new areas of cultivation which annually come into bearing.

Reference has been made in previous reports to the beneficial action of fungus parasites in controlling scale insects under normal climatic conditions. That a lime industry is possible in Dominica is largely due to the work of these parasites.

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* By His Honour Capt. A. Roger, I.S.O., Acting Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis.

† By Joseph Jones, Esq., Curator, Dominica.

The situation in regard to other pests and diseases is a less happy one. Root diseases are causing some anxiety, and their control will call for considerable effort on the part of planters. Mistletoe is rampant in certain districts, considerable damage being caused thereby. The love vine, another dangerous parasite, once scarcely known, is now reported to be appearing in new localities.

Considering the excellent prices realised by lime products for several years past it is unfortunate that cultivation on a large number of estates continues to remain in a poor condition, little or no attention being paid to the all-important question of manuring.

The exports of lime products during 1914 were as follows:—

Product.	Quantity.	Value. £
Concentrated lime juice	148,179 gls.	68,754
Raw lime juice	379,875 „	25,753
Raw juice cordial	4,966 „	564
Green limes	45,283 barrels	43,237
Pickled limes	572 „	572
Citrate of lime	5,191 cwt.	38,013
Essential oil of limes	3,984 gls.	4,176
Otto of limes	1,619 „	5,962
		£187,031

The increase in values over the crop of 1913 amounted to £44,369.

CACAO.

The decline in the export of cacao is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Quantity. cwt.
1910	11,272
1911	10,055
1912	11,877
1913	9,560
1914	8,874

On the collapse of the sugar industry in the 'eighties of the last century, cacao was for a few years the leading export of the island, at which time it assisted in tiding the Colony over a period of great depression.

Concurrently with the development of the lime industry, the export of cacao also made slow headway for a number of years, but it is now realised that, owing to the concentration of capital and energy in extending lime cultivation, interest in cacao is becoming less each year.

[*]MONTSERRAT.

The prosperity of Montserrat continued during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1915, which closed with a surplus of assets amounting to £14,466.

The revenue was £11,674 and exceeded the estimates by £879. This increase is accounted for under Head 5—Sale of Postage Stamps. As compared with the previous year, the receipts of 1914–15 decreased by £1,207, chiefly in customs, licences, excise, and post office, due to the absence of shipping facilities and general depression of trade owing to the War.

The expenditure—the highest on record—was £13,403, and exceeded the estimate of £10,479 by £2,924.

The items of expenditure which call for special comment are chiefly of a non-recurrent nature:—£376 for Military Expenditure; £1,256 Contributions to War Fund; £314 for the inauguration and maintenance of a Flash-Light Service between Montserrat and Antigua; and £947 in advancing the Town of Plymouth Improvement Scheme. The total value of the imports for 1914 was £37,903 and the exports £37,336, making the total trade of the Presidency £75,239, an increase of £1,068 over the previous year. The increase would have been larger had the usual facilities been available for shipping produce before the close of the year.

The direction of trade is shown by the following returns of imports and exports:—

RETURN OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, 1914.

Imports.

United Kingdom	35	per cent.
British North America	24	,,
United States of America	20½	,,
Other places	20½	,,

Exports.

United Kingdom	70½	per cent.
British North America	2½	,,
United States of America	3	,,
Other places	24	,,

The health of the Presidency during the year was as usual very good. The number of births was 397 as against 364 in 1913. The number of deaths was 133 as against 216 in 1913. The birth-rate was 32·50 and the death-rate 12·53 per 1,000.

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[*] By His Honour T. L. H. Jarvis, Acting Commissioner of Montserrat.

*AGRICULTURE.

The conditions prevailing in 1914 and the early part of 1915, resulted in fairly satisfactory crops of agricultural produce being obtained.

The cotton crop, in which the chief interest is centred, amounted to 332,522 lbs. of lint, of an estimated value of £22,000. This is the second largest output from the island since the reintroduction of this industry in 1903, and a return of 162 lbs. of lint per acre on an area of 2,350 acres is the third best average so far obtained. It may be stated that the record crop for the island, produced in the season 1910–11 was at the rate of 196 lbs. of lint per acre, compared with the smallest return obtained in 1908–09 of 99 lbs. of lint, the average output for the last twelve years being 135 lbs. of lint per acre.

April (1914) plantings fared better and yielded larger crops than the areas planted in the month of May, the latter suffering appreciably from the marked falling off in the rainfall in the month of August, substantiating the remarks in last year's Report that the manner of the precipitation of the rainfall for four months from the date of planting is the chief determining factor in the production of a good cotton crop.

Owing to the depressed state of the cotton market, subsequent to the outbreak of war, the bulk of the 1914–15 crop was not disposed of until late in 1915 at prices ranging from 1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 3½*d.* per pound of lint, which, in the circumstances, growers consider to be fairly satisfactory.

In connexion with the relation of the environment to the quality of cotton produced, experiments conducted during the year, both with high priced St. Vincent and St. Kitts types of cotton, have shown that when grown alongside local strains of cotton, the former regress to the mean in value of the local types. Observations during the year have also shown that the cotton stainer as a cotton pest is deserving of a good deal more attention than it has hitherto received.

The actual exports of lime products in the calendar year 1914 might be considered to be satisfactory, but owing to the circumstances explained in last year's Report of a considerable shipment of the 1913 crop in 1914, it is necessary to compare the output over the last two years, in relation to the average output for the years previous. The exports of 1913 reduced to raw juice produced were 96,118 gallons and in 1914, 217,355 gallons, giving an average for the two years of 156,736 gallons as against an average output for the previous eight years of 236,362 gallons. The serious falling off in the production is thus shown. This is not due to short crops being obtained from healthy fields, but to the actual decline and death of trees, due to disease, over large areas. Curious to relate, the estimated value placed on the exports in 1914, due to the inflated prices ruling for lime products, exceeds that of any year in the history of the industry.

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*By W. Robson, Esq., Curator, Montserrat.

A considerable impetus has been given to the cultivation of sugar-cane on account of the changes brought about by the war, and it is estimated that an additional 500 acres have been planted for the 1916 crop.

The year 1914 is the first in which the bay tree (*Pimenta acris*) has been planted to an appreciable extent. Twenty thousand plants were distributed from the Experiment Station and this is sufficient to plant about 25 acres.

The production of the drug papain has been well maintained and a demand for larger supplies of the Montserrat product promises to increase the volume of exports in the near future.

Owing to the uncertain future of a remunerative market for Sea Island cotton, planters late in 1914 were obliged to turn attention to new crops in view of a curtailment of the area in cotton. Consequently preliminary trials in the cultivation of maize have been made on a fairly extensive scale and the crop has been disposed of to neighbouring islands with satisfactory results. Other crops that are under consideration and trial are various peas and beans. Though the situation was somewhat relieved later, by the guarantee of a minimum price of 1*s.* 2*d.* per pound for the 1915–16 crop of cotton, it is a healthy sign that planters are willing to continue trials with alternative crops.

*VIRGIN ISLANDS.

FINANCIAL.

During the year under review the revenue of the Virgin Islands was £4,903, being a decrease of £2,432 on that of the previous year and a decrease of £2,153 on the estimated revenue of 1914–15.

This decrease in revenue is accounted for by (*a*) a diminution in the sale of postage stamps, and (*b*) a diminution in the amount of cotton sold, together with the confiscation of a part of this produce at Hamburg at the opening of the European war.

The decrease under both these heads is undoubtedly due to the existing state of war in Europe and hence may be regarded as temporary.

The expenditure for 1914–15 amounted to £5,554, being a decrease of £482 on the previous year's expenditure and a decrease of £1,190 on the estimated expenditure for the year. Thus the result of the year's transactions closed with a deficit of £651, which, however, is offset by the fact that produce of 1914–15 to the value of £1,000 remained unsold in England at the close of the financial year.

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* By His Honour Dr. T. L. E. Clarke, M.B. C.M., Acting Commissioner of the Virgin Islands.

The customs duties in 1914–15 amounted to £1,158, as compared with receipts under this head amounting to £1,142 during the previous year.

The total value of imports during 1914 was £9,081 and that of exports £6,905. The total trade of the Presidency thus amounted to £15,986, an increase of £288 as compared with the previous year.

An analysis of the returns shows the direction of trade to be as follows:—

Imports.

Danish West Indies	54 per cent.
United States of America	26 „
United Kingdom	17 „
Other places	3 „

Exports.

Danish West Indies	63 per cent.
United Kingdom	32 „
Other places	5 „

The total tonnage of shipping inwards and outwards during the year was 14,625 tons.

The health of the Presidency was, as usual, good. There were no quarantinable diseases and no epidemic.

The number of births was 206 as against 184 in 1913. The number of deaths was 95 as against 71 in 1913. The birth-rate was 36 per 1,000 of the population and the death-rate 16.

AGRICULTURAL.

The agricultural and commercial undertakings carried on at the Government Factory suffered a temporary setback, due to the fact that war caused a decrease in the demand for, and a consequent drop in prices of, cotton, the staple industry of the Presidency.

The exportation of cotton lint was 35,201 lbs. as compared with 55,307 lbs. the preceding year, and the number of gallons of lime juice exported was 741 as against 784 the preceding year.

The development of minor industries is proceeding with satisfactory results. A second coconut demonstration plot was established during the year, and the culture of this palm is being taken up by many of the peasants.

During the year an attempt was made to encourage the cultivation of onions with good results, an Onion Growers' Association being formed, which is co-operating with the Government in its efforts to foster this new industry.

A plot of bay trees, from which bay oil is distilled, has been established with a view to the establishment of a bay oil industry.

The rainfall was 55·18 inches.

T. A. V. Best,
Colonial Secretary,
Leeward Islands.

29th December, 1915.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
841	Leeward Islands	1913–1914
842	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
843	Zanzibar	1914
844	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
845	Weihaiwei	"
846	Seychelles	"
847	St. Helena	"
848	Fiji	"
849	Bahamas	1914–1915
850	Gibraltar	1914
851	Sierra Leone	"
852	Grenada	1914–1915
853	Bermuda	1914
854	Malta	1914–1915
855	Ceylon	1914
856	Hong Kong	"
857	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1914–1915
858	Basutoland	"
859	Gold Coast	1914
860	Jamaica	1914–1915
861	Gambia	1914
862	Straits Settlements	1914–1915
863	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1914
864	Ashanti	"
865	Cyprus	1914–1915
866	Swaziland	"
867	Somaliland	"
868	British Honduras	1914
869	British Solomon Islands	1914–1915
870	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
871	Barbados	1914–1915
872	Falkland Islands	1914
873	Uganda	1914–1915
874	British Guiana	"
875	Mauritius	1914

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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No. 913.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1915-16.

(For Report for 1914–15 see No. 876.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
January, 1917.

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[Maps will be found in the Report for 1913–14, No. 841: [Cd. 7622–32.]

No. 913.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1914–15 see No. 876.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
1st November, 1916.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward the Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the financial year 1915–16, which has been compiled by Mr. E. D'A. Tibbits, Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office.

I have &c.,
T. A. V. BEST,
Acting Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

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REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1915–16.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies constituting the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1916, was £162,239, showing a decrease of £7,088, in comparison with the revenue for the year 1914–15.

The aggregate expenditure for the year 1915–16 (exclusive of that in respect of the Agricultural Department from Imperial grants-in-aid) was £187,515, as against £189,370 for the year 1914–15, showing a decrease of £1,855.

The surplus of assets over liabilities on the 31st March, 1916, amounted to £38,962, as compared with £65,471 on the 31st March, 1915, and was made up as follows :—

	£
Antigua	585
St. Kitts-Nevis	6,023
Dominica	17,978
Montserrat	13,219
Virgin Islands	1,157
Total	£38,962

The surplus of assets for the Island of Barbuda amounted to £1,189 11*s.* 5½*d.* on the 31st March, 1916, as compared with £2,473 18*s.* 8½*d.* at the close of the previous financial year.

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounts to £261,250.

The following is a return showing the number of licences issued in the Leeward Islands in 1915, for the sale of intoxicating liquors, and the revenue derived therefrom :—

Presidency.	No. of Licences.	Revenue.		
		£	*s.*	*d.*
Antigua	21	846	0	0
St. Kitts-Nevis	45	1,668	0	0
Dominica	100	1,289	10	0
Montserrat	45	189	7	6
Virgin Islands	9	22	10	0
Totals	220	£4,015	7	6

MUNICIPALITIES.

The government of the City of Saint John, Antigua, is vested in five Commissioners, under the control of the Governor in Executive Council. Two of the Commissioners must be persons not holding any office of emolument under the Crown.

There is also a Town Committee in Basseterre, St. Kitts, and a Town Board in Roseau, Dominica.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total value of imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1915 amounted to £581,481, as against £603,565 in 1914, being a decrease of £22,084.

The total value of the exports was £622,321, as against £605,273, in 1914, showing an increase of £17,048.

The following tables exhibit the value of the imports and exports:—

	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Mont-serrat.	Virgin Islands.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	178,794	167,364	197,188	29,683	8,452	581,481
Exports	209,168	152,589	216,968	36,855	6,741	622,321

IMPORTS.

The following table exhibits the value of the imports for each of the last two years, distinguishing the countries whence the imports came, and showing the increase or decrease in 1915, as compared with 1914:—

Country whence Imported.	1914.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ..	232,583	192,073	—	40,510
British Colonies.. ..	150,594	153,137	2,543	—
United States of America	174,787	188,016	13,229	—
Other Foreign Countries	45,601	48,255	2,654	—
Total .. £	603,565	581,481	18,426	40,510

EXPORTS.

The value of the exports during each of the last two years, distinguishing the countries to which the exports were sent, and showing the increase or decrease in 1915, as compared with 1914, is shown in the following table:—

Countries to which exported.	1914.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ..	245,531	389,056	143,525	—
British Colonies ..	200,585	100,771	—	99,814
United States of America	125,518	115,096	—	10,422
Other Foreign Countries	33,639	17,398	—	16,241
Total	605,273	622,321	143,525	126,477

The value of the trade between the Presidencies for the years 1914 and 1915 was as under:—

Year.	Value.
1914	£35,879
1915	£32,204

Sugar.

The quantity of sugar exported from each Presidency during the year is shown below:—

	Tons.
Antigua	10,779
St. Kitts-Nevis	8,246
Montserrat	37
Total	19,062

MANUFACTURES, MINES, AND FISHERIES.

Sugar is the principal manufacture in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis. In St. Kitts the distilling of rum is of some importance.

The staple in Dominica is lime juice. In Montserrat cotton has replaced lime juice as the chief industry. Sulphur is found in Dominica, phosphate of lime in Barbuda, and phosphate of alumina in Redonda. A licence has been granted for reopening mines in Virgin Gorda which produce copper and molybdenum.

There is no organised fishing industry in the Colony. Fish are caught for local consumption only, except in the Virgin Islands, where large quantities are exported to the neighbouring Danish Island of St. Thomas.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES DURING 1915.

Sugar Industry.—The rainfall for the year 1914-15 was below the average in both Antigua and St. Kitts, while its distribution was very unfavourable; a fairly satisfactory rainfall in the early months of the year was followed by a prolonged spell of dry weather during the months of August, September, and October, which had the effect of checking the growth of the crops during their most critical period of development. In consequence the yields of cane in both places were low and the quality in general very indifferent.

The exports of sugar for the two sugar-producing Presidencies were made up as follows:—

Antigua—Grey Crystals 86 per cent. and Muscovado 14 per cent.

St. Kitts-Nevis—Grey Crystals 77 per cent. and Muscovado 23 per cent.

At Gunthorpes Factory in Antigua 8,391 tons of sugar were produced, the recovery per cent. on the indicated sucrose being 10·29 per cent.

2,220 tons of peasants' canes were purchased by Gunthorpes Factory during the crop under the terms of the original agreement, whereby a grant of £15,000 in aid of its erection was made by the Imperial Government.

The extension of the Factory railway lines to include a number of additional estates on the windward coast of St. Kitts enabled the Basseterre Sugar Factory to extend its operations during the year under review. Had it not been for this extension the crop would have been decidedly smaller.

Throughout the year sugar prices ranged round values which were considerably in excess of the average for a number of years previous; consequently, in spite of the poor yield, satisfactory results were experienced by the majority of sugar estates in the Colony.

Cotton Industry.—The exports of cotton for each of the cotton-growing Presidencies of the Colony for the year 1913-14 and 1914-15 are given below:—

	1913–14.	1914–15.
Antigua and Barbuda ..	160,490 ℔. lint	80,750 ℔. lint
St. Kitts..	372,633 „	397,567 „
Nevis	268,520 „	305,154 „
Anguilla	94,372 „	33,750 „
Montserrat	293,162 „	380,923 „
Virgin Islands	32,317 „	31,361 „

The advent of the War at one time appeared seriously to threaten the continued prosperity of the industry and difficulty was anticipated in disposing of the West Indian crop.

In consequence steps were taken, through the medium of the British Cotton Growing Association, to ensure its sale and an undertaking was obtained from the Fine Spinner and Doublers Association to purchase all cotton produced in the crop of 1915, provided that the grower was willing to sign an agreement with the Association to sell to them the whole of his crop for that season.

This move gave increased stability to the cotton industry, although many of the planters did not actually sign the agreement.

Latterly the demand for Sea Island cotton has very considerably strengthened and at the present time the prospects are for continued high prices.

On the other hand the high values current for sugar have caused some diminution in the area planted under cotton in the sugar-producing Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts.

Lime Industry.—In Dominica the lime crop amounted to 390,458 barrels, a quantity only slightly below the record crop of 1913.

Considerable damage to lime cultivation was caused by the severe storm which broke over the island on August 10th, 1915. In Montserrat the lime industry continued to suffer from the attacks of pests and diseases, although some improvement in conditions could be observed as the result of the heavier rainfall experienced during the year 1915.

Exports of lime products from Montserrat during 1915 were valued at £7,645.

Interest continues to be manifested in the cultivation of limes in suitable localities in Antigua, Nevis, and Tortola.

Cacao.—The exports of cacao from Dominica for the year 1915 amounted to 10,810 cwt.

Coconuts.—Interest in coconuts has continued to increase. In Nevis considerable additional areas were planted under the crop during the year, while the plantation at Pinneys has continued to improve. Some difficulty was experienced during the year in shipping nuts, owing to lack of steamer communication.

Considerable shipments of coconuts were made from Dominica during the year, amounting approximately to 500,000 nuts.

Appreciable additional areas have been planted under coconuts in Antigua and in the Virgin Islands.

Onions.—Interest in the possibility of producing onions for shipment to intercolonial and American markets has continued to increase.

The efforts to extend this business on co-operative lines made by the Antigua Onion Growers' Association have met with continued success, and have led to the formation of similar co-operative organisations in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands.

Maize.—Efforts to foster the development of the maize industry were continued during the year, and the co-operative granary established in Antigua had its first commercial run.

The high price of sugar has to some extent detracted from the efforts made to increase the production of maize.

A successful show of maize and maize products was held in Antigua in March, 1916.

General.—Among other minor industries the cultivation of vanilla has continued to receive attention in Dominica and Nevis.

Considerably increased interest has also been shown in the cultivation of bay trees for the production of bay oil, especially in Montserrat.

The production of papain has been extended in Montserrat, and some interest in the question has been excited in other islands.

LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

The value of land in the Colony varies in accordance with its suitability for the cultivation of sugar-cane or other products. In Dominica Crown lands can be purchased at 10*s.* an acre. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane-growing land varies from £4 to £8 an acre.

In Antigua there are over 2,000 acres of Crown land at Piccadilly, Red Hill, and the Ridge, on which there is much valuable timber. In the event of the erection of a sugar factory in that district, favourable sections of these lands will doubtless be taken up for the cultivation of sugar-cane.

SHIPPING.

Comparing the figures with those for the year 1914 there was a decrease of 155,538 tons in vessels entered and cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1915.

The following table shows the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in each Presidency during the year, including both steam and sailing vessels:—

	1915. Tons.
Antigua	755,924
St. Kitts-Nevis	723,646
Dominica	635,348
Montserrat	319,598
Virgin Islands	13,212
	2,447,738

III.—LEGISLATION.

Eleven Federal Acts and forty Presidential Ordinances were passed during the year, none of which calls for any special remark.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The number of children on the registers of the Government and grant-aided schools in the Colony during the year 1915–16 was 23,944, as against 23,972 in the year 1914–15. The average daily attendance was 11,019, or 46 per cent., as against 11,463, or 48 per cent., for the previous year.

The cost of elementary education was £8,826 8*s*. 6*d*., of which £8,472 5*s*. 9*d*. formed the Government grant.

St. John's Training School.

There is one industrial school in the Colony, viz., the St. John's Training School in Antigua, established under the provisions of the Leeward Islands Act, No. 4, of 1891, for the reformation, education, and training of persons under 18 years of age. The number of boys in the school on the 1st April, 1915, was 72.

The health of the school was very satisfactory. The boys were employed, as in former years, in agricultural and garden work, in addition to the various duties concerned with the indoor department of the school.

A practical effort has been made to fit the boys for a good start in life when they leave the school. A number of the most promising are now apprenticed to responsible craftsmen in St. John's, while still remaining inmates of the school. They receive a small wage, which is put to their credit and forms a fund to provide them with an outfit.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

In the year 1915, 3,184 patients, as against 3,713 for the previous year, were admitted into the hospitals of the Colony. There were 273 deaths, as against 266 for 1914.

There is a central lunatic asylum in Antigua. On the 1st January, 1915, there were 153 inmates.

There are two leper asylums in the Colony; one at Rat Island in Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles in St. Kitts.

On the 31st December, 1915, there were 41 lepers in Antigua and 75 in St. Kitts.

The number of inmates in the Antigua poor-house on the 1st January, 1915, was 137.

The approximate number of persons who received outdoor relief in the Colony during 1915 was as follows:—Antigua, 400; St. Kitts, 1,000; Nevis, 600; Dominica, 155; Montserrat, 98; and the Virgin Islands, 60.

The Alexandra Cottage Home for Incurables, Dominica, which is supported partly by voluntary contributions, maintained on an average 10 paupers.

The number of depositors in the Government Savings Banks on the 31st March, 1916, was 3,315, and the amounts at their credit £92,014; £19,395 was deposited and £32,690 withdrawn during the year.

The total amount of invested funds was £98,055.

The revenue amounted to £3,520 and the expenditure to £2,783.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The total number of persons in the Colony committed to prison during the year 1915 was 1,224 (691 males, 510 females, and 23 juveniles).

The number of committals in Antigua was 267, as against 241 in 1914.

Eighteen prisoners were transferred from the other Presidencies to the Central Prison, Antigua.

5.010 cases were reported to the police during the year, and 14,634 persons were brought before the magistrates. The number of summary convictions was 7,296, and the number of convictions in the Superior Courts 78; 7.245 persons were acquitted in the Inferior Courts, and 20 in the Superior Courts.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Colony according to the census of 1911 was 127,193.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The average rainfall in Antigua from January to December, 1915, on 75 stations, was 56·14 inches.

The average rainfall for the 42 years 1874 to 1915 was 44·53 inches, so that the precipitation for the year under review was 11·61 inches above the average.

The highest rainfall recorded was in 1889, when there were 73·59 inches, and the lowest in 1875, with 28·78 inches.

The highest maximum temperature was 91°, on 30th April and 16th September.

The lowest minimum temperature was 60°, on 23rd February. Fifteen shocks of earthquake were recorded, viz., two on 22nd January, three on 24th January, one on 19th April, two on 25th April, one each on 3rd and 25th July, and five on 19th August.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and the Quebec Steamship Company.

The mails are conveyed between Tortola and St. Thomas and between Tortola and Virgin Gorda by a sloop belonging to the Government, and by private boats, as follows:—From Tortola to St. Thomas about four times a week, and from Tortola to Virgin Gorda about six times a month.

There is a fortnightly mail service by sailing boat between St. Kitts and Anguilla. A sloop is also subsidized by the Government of Montserrat to take mails and passengers between that Presidency, Antigua, and St. Kitts.

Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other, the other West Indian Colonies, Europe, and America by the cables of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company. There is no communication by telegraph with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands. Messages can, however, be sent to Montserrat by flashlight via Antigua. St. Kitts is in heliograph communication with Nevis.

Telephone services have been established in Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica and Montserrat.

The following statement shows the volume of the transactions of the Colony in postal matter during the year:—

Letters and Cards received and sent	844,126
Books and Papers received and sent	225,320
Parcels received and sent	17,351

The total value of money and postal orders issued in the Colony was £36,941 0*s*. 5½*d*., as against £31,620 13*s*. 9½*d*. in 1914, and the total value of the orders paid was £27,031 4*s*. 7*d*., as against £28,078 11*s*. 8*d*. in the previous year.

The net loss on the working of the Post Offices of the Colony was £1,741 9*s*. 6½*d*., as against a profit of £6,708 18*s*. 7½*d*. in 1914.

This loss is almost entirely due to the decrease in the sale of stamps to dealers. The reduction in the postage on letters to the United States of America to 1*d*. an ounce also affected the revenue derived by the various Post Offices.

In Antigua there are 195 telephone instruments in use, and 325 miles of wire; in St. Kitts-Nevis 187 instruments and 403 miles of wire; and in Dominica 168 instruments and 389 miles of wire.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

His Excellency Sir H. Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G., was absent from the Colony on leave of absence from the 11th April to the 28th August, 1915, during which time the Honourable T. A. V. Best, C.M.G., Colonial

Secretary, administered the Government of the Colony; the Honourable W. H. Whyham, I.S.O., Magistrate of Districts "A" and "B," acting as Colonial Secretary.

In August, 1915, His Honour T. L. Roxburgh, C.M.G., retired from the post of Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, and was succeeded in January, 1916, by Major J. A. Burdon, C.M.G., formerly Colonial Secretary of Barbados.

Mr. D. F. Wilbraham arrived in Dominica on the 19th November, 1915, to assume the duties of First Puisne Judge rendered vacant by the promotion of His Honour F. H. Parker to be Chief Justice of Grenada. Mr. Wilbraham died in Dominica on the 13th February, 1916.

His Excellency Sir H. Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G., left the Colony on the 1st January, 1916, to take up his appointment as Governor and Commander in Chief of Mauritius. The Honourable T. A. V. Best, C.M.G., assumed the administration of the Government of the Colony on the 3rd January, 1916; the Honourable W. H. Whyham, I.S.O., again acting as Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency Sir E. M. Merewether, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., was appointed Governor and Commander in Chief of the Leeward Islands in January, 1916, but it has not yet been possible for him to assume the government.

ANTIGUA.

The revenue of the Presidency for 1915–16 was £51,526 3*s.* 11½*d.* and fell short of the estimates by £803 16*s.* 0½*d.*

As compared with the previous year, the receipts of 1915–16 decreased by £1,990 14*s.* 1*d.*, chiefly in duties on imports.

The expenditure, which had been estimated at £52,083 7*s.* 5*d.* was exceeded by £4,603 7*s.* 4*d.* The total expenditure was therefore £56,686 14*s.* 9*d.*

The excess of assets of the Presidency which stood at £5,745 14*s.* 4½d. on the 31st March, 1914, was reduced to £585 3*s.* 7*d.* on the 31st March, 1915.

The imports amounted to £178,794 and the exports to £209,168, exceeding the value of the imports and exports of the previous year by £13,568 and £46,780 respectively.

*ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

1915–16.

The revenue for 1915–16 was £45,324, showing a decrease of £5,013 as compared with the previous year (1914–15).

---

* By His Hon. The Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis.

The expenditure was £56,675 or £5,434 less than that of the previous year, which was the highest on record.

Imports fell to £169,112 as compared with £201,277 and the Customs revenue dropped £2,392 below that of 1914–15.

Exports were £167,557 as compared with £173,754 in 1914–15. Smaller crops of sugar and cotton and the impaired spending power of the inhabitants accounted for these decreases.

On the 31st July, 1914, the surplus funds stood at £30,956. By the 31st March, 1916, this surplus was reduced to £6,023. The reduction was mainly caused by a gift to the National Relief Fund of £5,000 and other expenses due to the War.

An average loss of some £90 a month, caused by the preferential duty on flour, has been adjusted by Ordinance 9 of 1915; the increase for the crop of 1916 of the export duty on sugar, together with a similar imposition of an export duty on molasses and syrup, and the increase by 50 per cent. of the pier dues and the land and house taxes until the 31st March next, enable the Presidency to look forward in the coming year to the equation of revenue and expenditure, provided the latter is rigidly curtailed.

The general health of the population has been good and the Presidency was free from any serious epidemic. The treatment of yaws by kharsivan was renewed as soon as this drug was obtainable. Over 100 cases were cured by the end of the year.

*DOMINICA.

1915–16.

In spite of the War, the financial condition of the Presidency remained sound. The demand for raw lime juice no doubt contributed to this. The revenue for the year exceeded the estimate by £2,000 and was the highest known, amounting to over £50,000.

The rainfall for the year was exceptionally heavy and did much damage to the roads, both those under construction and those already existing. In spite of many difficulties the road programme was carried out as contemplated.

Good work was accomplished by some labourers who were imported from Barbados.

The storm of August 10th did a considerable amount of damage, which cost the Public Works Department £1,000 to repair; happily the lime trees did not suffer very severely.

The price of labour has increased and is increasing, and the general manner of life of the people is changing and becoming more expensive.

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* By His Hon. The Administrator of Dominica.

*LIME INDUSTRY.

General Conditions.

The crop for 1915 amounted to 390,458 barrels or 2,447 over the crop of 1914 and only 749 below the record crop of 1913. It is evident that had the weather conditions been normal during 1915 a considerable advance in the crop output would have resulted.

The climatic conditions during 1915 were distinctly unfavourable. After a period of twelve years during which there was an absence of bad weather during the hurricane seasons, a heavy storm broke over the island on August 10th which caused considerable damage to lime cultivation, and affected crop prospects, particularly on estates exposed to the south-west. The damage can only be approximately computed, but it is probable that from 10,000 to 12,000 trees were blown over and that from 14,000 to 15,000 barrels of fruit were lost owing to the falling of immature fruit. On a few of the large estates the loss was covered by insurance.

In regard to fallen trees it is important to state that a lime tree blown over is not necessarily a tree lost. The proportion of loss in respect to fallen trees may not exceed 2 or 3 per cent. in some cases, in others 5 per cent., whilst a loss of 10 per cent. under average conditions would be regarded as very high.

The value of fertilisers imported during 1915 was £5,337, an increase of £1,275 over the figures of the previous year. The amount of manure imported is still far from meeting the requirements of lime cultivation, especially when it is clear that very little expenditure is incurred on the majority of estates in the production of pen manures and mulches. It is estimated that, after allowing for the production of considerable quantities of pen manure, an annual importation of fertilizers of a value of £15,000 is necessary for lime cultivation alone.

The exports of lime products during 1915 were as follows:—

Product.	Quantity.	Value. £
Concentrated lime juice	153,292 gallons.	53,469
Raw lime juice	777,064 ,,	55,276
Raw juice cordial	5,950 ,,	891
Green limes	41,494 barrels	48,026
Pickled limes	524 ,,	524
Citrate of lime	1,102 cwt.	3,749
Essential oil of limes	4,108 gallons.	9,985
Otto of limes	974 ,,	2,484
		£174,405

Compared with the previous year there was a decrease in values amounting to £12,626.

---

* By Joseph Jones, Esq., Curator, Botanic Gardens, Dominica.

CACAO.

After a gradual decrease in the exports of cacao during 1913 and 1914 there was an improvement during 1915 when the exports totalled 10,810 cwt.

COCONUTS.

The shipments of coconuts have averaged for the past four years a little over half a million nuts yearly. As the local consumption is considerable, it is probable that the annual production of nuts is over the million mark.

Some progress has been made of late in the planting of new areas. In the Lasoye district, it is estimated that about 500 acres have been placed under this cultivation during the past three years. Planting in other districts appears to have been on a smaller scale.

Considering how completely dependent Dominica is upon lime cultivation, it is important that measures should be taken in the direction of developing new agricultural interests in case of failure or set back of the major industry.

Minor Products.

The quantities and values of minor products exported during 1915 are given below :—

Produce.	Quantities.	Values.
		£
Oranges	865 barrels	673
Orange oil	46 gallons	92
Bay leaves	503 cwt.	423
Bay oil	136 gallons	387
Bananas	2,225 bunches	111
Starches	214 cwt.	200
Coffee	30 ,,	127
Hardwood	43,839 feet	245

*MONTSERRAT.

1915–16.

The prosperity of the Island was not as satisfactory as in the previous year.

The revenue was estimated at £10,766 and the actual receipts were £10,722, a decrease of £44 or £952 less than the previous financial year.

The expenditure, £11,969 was less than in 1914–15, but £1,050 more than the estimates.

---

* By His Hon. T. L. H. Jarvis, Acting Commissioner, Montserrat.

The trade of the Presidency for the calendar year was £76,827, or £3,302 more than in the previous year, as under :—

	1914.	1915.
	£	£
Imports	37,903	33,686
Exports	35,622	43,141
	£73,525	£76,827

The imports show a general decline consequent on the War and the increase in exports is due to produce of the previous year remaining on hand owing to the lack of shipping facilities.

The returns of imports and exports show the direction of trade to be as follows :—

Imports.

United Kingdom	£11,133, or 33·05	per cent.
British North America ..	7,321, or 21·73	,,
United States	8,005, or 23·78	,,
Other places	7,227, or 21·44	,,

Exports.

United Kingdom	£30,707, or 71·18	per cent.
British North America ..	1,604, or 3·72	,,
United States	963, or 2·24	,,
Other places	9,867, or 22·85	,,

The total tonnage of shipping inwards and outwards for 1915 was 319,600; of this 306,914 was steam, all British, and 12,686 sailing vessels.

The health of the Presidency was good. There were no quarantinable diseases and no epidemic.

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture was maintained in a fairly satisfactory condition. The rainfall was 18·76 inches above the average for the previous five years, with a steady precipitation from April until the close of the year.

The cotton crop was slightly below the average in yield, the output for the 1915–16 crop being estimated at 275,326 lbs. of lint, a proportion still awaiting shipment. The area grown was 1,953 acres so that the average yield was 142 lbs. of lint per acre, compared with an average of 144 lbs. over the previous twelve years.

The actual export of lime products in the calendar year 1915 shows a considerable decline, compared with the output for the two previous years. The exports reduced to raw juice produced are equal to 64,257 gallons, compared with an average of 156,736 gallons for the two previous years. This to some extent is accounted for by the delay in shipping part of the 1915 crop, but, including the remaining shipments of this crop made early in 1916, the total amount of juice produced is still 20,000 gallons short of the average for the two years previous.

As the result of high prices now ruling for muscovado sugar, a considerable stimulus has been given to the planting of sugar canes. The increase in the area planted in 1915 will not influence the volume of the exports until 1916, when, it is expected, they will reach 400 to 500 tons compared with 64 tons exported in 1915. The re-erection of small plants for making muscovado sugar is under consideration on several estates.

Interest in the planting of bay trees remains keen, and though the volume of the bay oil exported is never likely to assume very large proportions, a carefully fostered bay tree cultivation will be an interesting minor industry.

The exports of the drug papain have slightly increased and will probably continue to do so for a few years. Some interest has been shown both in the cultivation of maize and of ground-nuts.

The agricultural outlook for the Island has considerably improved as the result of a firmer market for Sea Island cotton, and upon this crop the prosperity of the island in the immediate future will largely depend. The cultivation of sugar cane on cotton estates as a rotation would be a very desirable system to adopt, were it considered practicable to lay down machinery to manufacture sugar or to renovate the existing plants. The rotation of cotton and sugar cane has its disadvantages, and in its place the cultivation of a suitable pea or bean crop might be considered preferable. Any development of the existing or of new crops is, however, largely determined by the amount of labour at command, and so long as 2,000 acres or more of cotton are grown, together with the increased interest in the sugar-cane, there does not seem to be a surplus of labour for new enterprises.

*VIRGIN ISLANDS.

FINANCIAL.

1. During the year under review the revenue of the Virgin Islands was £4,030, showing a decrease of £873 on that of the previous year and a decrease of £1,955 on the estimated revenue for the year. This decrease can be put down to (*a*) a diminution in the sale of stamps, (*b*) a diminution in the amount of sales of produce from the Government factory, (*c*) a diminution in the recoveries from import and export duties.

All of these decreases were directly attributable to the European War.

---

* By His Hon. T. L. E. Clarke, M.B., C.M., Acting Commissioner of the Virgin Islands.

2. The expenditure during the year amounted to £5,287, being a decrease of £267 on that of the previous year and of £478 on the estimated expenditure for the year.

3. Thus the year's transactions closed with a deficit of £1,257. This deficit is, however, offset by the fact that there remained unsold in England at the close of the year produce paid for during the year to the value of £1,300, viz., cotton £1,200 and lime juice £100.

4. The custom duties in 1915–16 amounted to £1,037 as compared with receipts under this head amounting to £1,158 during the previous year.

5. The total value of imports during 1915 was £8,532 and that of exports £6,836. The total trade of the Presidency amounted to £15,368, showing a decrease of £618 as compared with 1914. An analysis of the returns shows the direction of trade as compared with 1914 to be as follows :—

Imports.

	1914.	1915.
Danish West Indies	54 per cent.	41 per cent.
United States of America ..	26 ,,	42 ,,
United Kingdom	17 ,,	12 ,,
Other places	3 ,,	5 ,,

Exports.

	1914.	1915.
Danish West Indies	63 per cent.	70 per cent.
United Kingdom	32 ,,	24 ,,
Other places	5 ,,	6 ,,

From the above table, it will be seen that the importations from the United States of America have increased largely during the year, a fact which may be ascribed to the difficulty of obtaining shipments during the War from the United Kingdom and the heavy freights payable thereon.

6. The total tonnage of shipping inwards and outwards during the last two years was as follows :—

1914	14,625
1915	13,212

7. The health of the Presidency was, as usual, good. There were no quarantinable diseases and no diseases of an epidemic nature.

8. The number of births was 201 as against 206 in 1914. The number of deaths was 99 as against 95 in 1914—the birth-rate was 33 per cent., and the death-rate 11 per cent.

AGRICULTURAL.

The commercial undertakings carried on at the Government Factory, while affected by the uncertainty of the cotton market, were still maintained at practically the same standard as in the previous year. The exportation of cotton lint was 36,751 pounds in 1914–15 and the number of gallons of concentrated lime juice exported was 680 gallons as compared with 741 the preceding year.

The policy of developing minor industries is proceeding satisfactorily. A third coconut demonstration plot was established during the year and the two plots previously established have strikingly demonstrated the adaptability of the Virgin Islands to the growth of this palm. In addition the onion industry has been started with the formation of an Onion Growers' Association working along co-operative lines. This Association exported nearly 10,000 pounds of onions during the season.

The rainfall for the year was 65·19 inches as compared with an average of 51·95 inches for the fourteen previous years.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
878	Nigeria	1914
879	Cayman Islands	1914–1915
880	St. Lucia	„
881	East Africa Protectorate	„
882	Imperial Institute	1914
883	Nyasaland	1914–1915
884	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	„
885	Weihaiwei	1915
886	Zanzibar	„
887	Fiji	„
888	Sierra Leone	„
889	Turks and Caicos Islands	„
890	Gambia	„
891	Trinidad and Tobago	„
892	Hong Kong	„
893	Ashanti	„
894	Gold Coast	„
895	Malta	1915–1916
896	St. Helena	1915
897	Seychelles	„
898	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1915–1916
899	Gibraltar	1915
900	Bahamas	1915–1916
901	Swaziland	„
902	Somaliland	„
903	Cyprus	„
904	Ceylon	1915
905	Straits Settlements	„
906	Grenada	1915–1916
907	Falkland Islands	1915
908	Bermuda	„
909	Jamaica	1915–1916
910	British Guiana	1915
911	Basutoland	1915–1916
912	Barbados	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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No. 952.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1916-17.

(For Report for 1915–16 see No. 913.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

February, 1918.

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No. 952.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1915–16 see No. 913.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
29th October, 1917.

SIR,

I have the honour to enclose the Annual Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the financial year 1916–17, compiled by the Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. F. H. Watkins, I.S.O.

I have, &c.,
T. A. V. BEST,
Acting Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

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REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1916–17.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1917, was £190,060, showing an increase of £27,821 in comparison with the revenue for the year 1915–16.

2. The expenditure for the year 1916–17, exclusive of Imperial grants, was £185,095, as against £187,516 for the previous year, showing a decrease of £2,421.

3. The surplus of assets over liabilities on the 31st March, 1917, amounted to £44,538, as compared with £38,962 on the 31st March, 1916, an increase of £5,576, and was made up as follows :—

	£
Antigua	8,414
St. Kitts-Nevis	11,985
Dominica	10,245
Montserrat	13,658
Virgin Islands	236
	£44,538

4. The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounts to £259,850.

The debt of the Colony has been reduced by the following amount during the year :—

Antigua 1890 Additional Water Works Loan .. £1,200

The following table shows the amount of the loans raised and the amounts standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds on the 31st March, 1917.

Presidency.	Total amount of loans raised.		Amount to credit of Sinking Fund.
	£		£
Antigua	122,891	..	48,475
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	67,250	..	26,092
Dominica	65,000	..	26,679
Montserrat	11,100	..	4,241
	£266,241	..	£105,487
Less amount repaid ..	6,391	..	—
Total	£259,850	..	£105,487

II.—IMPORTS, EXPORTS, AND SHIPPING.

IMPORTS.

5. The total value of imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1916, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £642,249, as against £563,596 in 1915, being an increase of £78,653.

The value of the internal trade between the Presidencies amounted to £33,256, as against £32,204, being an increase of £1,052.

EXPORTS.

6. The total value of exports for the year 1916 was £1,121,553, as against £670,101 in 1915, being an increase of £451,452.

TOTAL TONNAGE OF SHIPPING ENTERED AND CLEARED.

7.—

	1915–16.	1916–17.
Antigua	755,924	547,678
St. Kitts-Nevis	790,752	586,697
Dominica	636,348	606,408
Montserrat	319,600	347,298
Virgin Islands	13,212	12,876

III.—LEGISLATION.

8. Fifteen Federal Acts and 29 Presidential Ordinances were passed during the year 1916. The more important Ordinances are certain Ordinances relating to taxation in St. Kitts-Nevis, which will be found mentioned in the part of this report which deals specially with that Presidency, and the following Ordinances of Dominica:—

(*a*) No. 2 of 1916, providing the sum of £10,000 as a gift to His Majesty's Government, to be applied as may be decided by them for the prosecution of the War.

The following increases in taxation and duties were imposed to meet this charge until the sum of £10,000 was realised:—

Fifty per cent. on spirits imported or manufactured in the Colony and on liquor and trade licences;

One hundred per cent. on products of the island exported; and

One shilling on each barrel of green limes exported.

(*b*) No. 3 of 1916, regulating the registration of births and deaths.

IV.—EDUCATION.

9. The number of elementary schools in the Colony in the year under review was 98, distributed among the islands as follows:— Antigua, 17; Barbuda, 1; St. Kitts, 18; Nevis, 10; Anguilla, 5; Dominica, 26; Montserrat, 13; Virgin Islands, 8; total, 98.

The numbers enrolled were 24,052, compared with 23,944 in 1915–16, whilst the average daily attendance was 45 per cent., against 46 per cent. in the previous year.

The number in average attendance has improved in all the Presidencies, except Dominica and the Virgin Islands, in which islands hurricanes seriously affected the attendance for some months.

The total expenditure on the primary schools, exclusive of salaries of the departmental officers and of establishment charges, was £9,115.

Although the difficulty of obtaining supplies on account of the War has hampered considerably the efforts of the teachers, marked improvement in discipline and organisation was evident in nearly all the schools.

10. The following Government grants are given for the encouragement of secondary education in the Colony:—

	£
Mico Institution in Jamaica	60
Female Training College in Antigua	180
Antigua Grammar School	440
Antigua Girls' High School..	125
Thomas Oliver Robinson Memorial School ..	25
St. Kitts-Nevis Grammar School	200
St. Kitts Girls' High School	75
Nevis Excelsior School	74
Dominica Grammar School..	444
	£1,623

A scholarship of the value of £150 a year is awarded triennially, of which £100 a year is contributed by the General Government and £50 by the Presidency to which the successful candidate belongs.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

11. In the year 1916, 4,147 patients were admitted into the hospitals of the Colony.

325 deaths occurred in the hospitals during the year.

There is a central lunatic asylum at Skerrets, Antigua. At the end of 1916 there were 170 inmates, while the average number was 153, 73 males and 80 females.

There are two leper asylums in the Colony, one at Rat Island, Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles, in St. Kitts. In Antigua 44 inmates remained in the institution at the end of the year, the average daily number being 23 males and 21 females. In St. Kitts the daily average number was 70, 39 males and 31 females.

12. The number of depositors in the savings banks on the 31st March, 1917, was 3,018, and the amount to their credit was £82,994.

Three per cent. is the rate of interest allowed in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Dominica, and 2½ per cent. in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands. The total amount of invested funds is £95,303.

13. In the Presidencies Government grants are given to public libraries as follows:—Antigua, £150; St. Kitts-Nevis, £100; Dominica, £154; Montserrat, £50.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

14. The total number of persons in the Colony committed to prison during the year 1916 was 1,155 (675 males, 453 females and 27 juveniles), as against 1,224 (691 males, 510 females and 23 juveniles) in 1915.

15. Prisoners sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment are sent to the Common Prison of the Leeward Islands, in Antigua, and immediately before the expiration of their sentences are returned to the Presidencies from which they were committed. In 1916, 49 prisoners were transferred to the Central Prison, 23 being sent from St. Kitts-Nevis, 17 from Dominica, 8 from Montserrat and 1 from the Virgin Islands, the total daily average being 80, 68 males and 12 females.

The total expenditure on the Central Prison was £2,437, and the amount of receipts £1,885. The annual cost per head to Antigua was £18. The prisoners were employed in the usual services of the prison, such as in cooking and in baking bread for the public institutions, quarrying, masonry, making roads, casting concrete pipes, and in cultivating land.

16. The daily average of the St. John's Training School in Antigua, to which boys are sent from all the Presidencies and which was established under the provisions of the Leeward Islands Act, No. 4 of 1891, for the reformation, education, and training of boys under 18 years of age, was 64. The expenditure was £1,028 and the receipts £503, the cost per head to Antigua being £19. The health of the school was good. The boys were employed in agricultural and garden work in addition to the ordinary indoor work of the school. The grounds at Government House were kept in order by some of the younger boys, while a few of the older boys are apprenticed to managers of neighbouring estates and others, while still remaining inmates of the school.

17. Comparative table of criminal statistics for 1915 and 1916 :—

	1915.	1916.
Cases reported to the Police	5,010	4,582
Number of persons brought before the Magisterial Courts	14,634	15,913
Summary Convictions	7,296	7,936
Indictments in the Superior Courts	78	91
Convictions in the Superior Courts	50	75

VII.—POLICE.

18. The actual strength of the force on the 31st March, 1917, was 5 officers and 153 non-commissioned officers and men, not including 2 officers and 17 men abroad on active service. An increase to the establishment was made by the addition of eight third class privates in Dominica.

Considering the large proportion of young men and short service in the force, the discipline was very good, while the health of all ranks throughout the year was satisfactory and the rate of ineffectiveness, from fevers in particular, was normal, being slightly below the average for the past five years.

Enrolled under the Leeward Islands Act, No. 8 of 1882, were 383 rural constables, who are generally employed for villages and estates, but are liable and empowered to serve as constables.

With regard to praedial larceny, the Chief Inspector showed that the total number of cases for the whole Colony reported to the police or dealt with by the magistrates was 961, being a decrease of 314, as compared with 1915. Dominica alone gave an increase in its praedial larceny figures, the total number of offences dealt with being 338, as compared with 182 in 1915 and 159 in 1914.

The actual expenditure on the force for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1917, was £11,417, as compared with £11,163 during the previous year.

VIII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

19. The total population of the Colony according to the census of 1911 was 127,193.

20. No serious outbreak of illness was reported from any of the Presidencies. A serious attempt was made in Montserrat to eradicate yaws by the use of salvarsan, and Dr. McPherson wrote in November that the extermination of this loathsome disease was in sight, and should, with further efforts, be a matter of months.

21. During the year 1916, the campaign toward the relief and control of hookworm disease was, by the generous aid of the International Health Commission, continued in Antigua under the direction of Dr. Don Morse Griswold. The intensive plan was followed, the unit of operations being a group of villages. For the purposes of the work the island was divided into six areas. On account of the sparsity of population, these areas were made as large as could be conveniently handled from a central point. Work was completed in three of these areas, namely, the York Valley, Belvidere, and All Saints districts. The population of these districts was returned at the census as 7,565. 7,477 persons were examined, 2,229 found infected, 2,054 were given first treatment, and 1,973 were cured.

Public lectures in the evening and talks in the schools in the afternoon, illustrated with lantern slides and charts, respectively were given in each of the areas in which the operations were conducted, while at every house circulars describing hookworm disease were delivered.

A special inspector was appointed for the improvement of sanitary conditions in the areas under treatment.

Much of the value of the work under the Commission, to which Antigua, in common with other West Indian islands, is deeply indebted for the great stimulus to local efforts to combat the baneful effects of ankylostomiasis, will depend on how far adequate, continuous, and energetic measures are taken in the future, locally, for the improvement of sanitation and how far the enforcement of sanitary regulations is adopted and carried out.

22. IX.—METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Presidencies.	Rainfall.	Maximum Temperature.	Minimum Temperature.	Mean Temperature 9 a.m.	
				Dry.	Wet.
	Inches.	° F.	° F.	° F.	° F.
Antigua ..	59	92	66	81	75
St. Kitts ..	70	91	67	80	75
Dominica ..	126	—	—	—	—
Montserrat ..	68	93	64	80	74
Virgin Islands	70	—	—	—	—

ANTIGUA.

The average rainfall was taken at 74 stations. The average annual rainfall for 43 years is 45·23 inches, so that the rainfall for 1916 was 13 inches above the average. The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 4·71 inches on November 27th.

ST. KITTS.

The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 3·80 inches on August 22nd.

DOMINICA.

The greatest rainfall in a month was 30·61 inches at Glean Manioc in July. The mean rainfall at different stations was :—

12 Leeward Stations	91·99 inches
3 Windward Stations	147·62 „
11 Inland Stations	160·65 „
7 Lasoye Stations	119·16 „

A severe hurricane passed over the island on August 28th, 1916. From 9 a.m., August 28th, to 9 a.m., August 29th, a total mileage of 996, or 42 miles an hour, was recorded by the anemometer, while between 6.30 of the evening of the 28th and 6.30 a.m. on the following day, the average mileage was 82 an hour, which makes it evident that at the time of the hurricane the mileage exceeded 100 miles an hour.

MONTSERRAT.

The average annual rainfall for 22 years was 57·08, so that the rainfall for 1916 is 10·61 inches above that average. The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 7·59 inches on October 29th.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The average rainfall for the previous 15 years was 52·66, inches so that the rainfall for 1916 was 16·99 inches in excess of that average. The year was marked by exceptional cyclonic activity, no fewer than eight disturbances passing near these islands. The cyclone which was experienced on the night of 9th October was the most destructive.

An eclipse of the sun, visible throughout the Colony, occurred on 3rd February, at 12.10 p.m.

X.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

23. British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and the Quebec Steamship Company. The mails are conveyed between Tortola and St. Thomas and between Tortola and Virgin Gorda by a sloop belonging to the Government, and by private boats, as follows:—

From Tortola to St. Thomas about four times a week, and
From Tortola to Virgin Gorda about six times a month.

There is a fortnightly mail service by sailing boat between St. Kitts and Anguilla. A sloop is also subsidised by the Government of Montserrat to take mails and passengers between that Presidency, Antigua, and St. Kitts.

24. Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other, the other West Indian Colonies, Europe, and America by the cables of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company. There is no communication by telegraph with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands. Messages can, however, be sent to Montserrat by flashlight via Antigua. St. Kitts is in heliograph communication with Nevis.

25. The revenue and expenditure account of the Post Offices of the different Presidencies of the Colony showed a profit of £2,876.

The money orders issued and paid in the Colony during the year 1916 amounted to £51,570 and £20,920, respectively, while postal matter was received and despatched as follows:—Letters and cards, 202,901 received, 212,712 despatched; papers and books, 45,341 received, 31,288 despatched; and parcels, 2,347 received, 746 despatched.

XI.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

26. As it was not possible for His Excellency Sir E. M. Merewether, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., to assume the Government, the Honourable T. A. V. Best, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, continued to administer the Government of the Colony throughout the year.

The Honourable W. H. Whyham, I.S.O., Magistrate of Districts "A" and "B," who died on 20th January, acted as Colonial Secretary until the 16th January, when the Honourable W. D. Auchinleck, I.S.O., Auditor-General of the Leeward Islands, was appointed to act in that office.

On the 7th April, 1916, His Honour S. R. Pemberton, Second Puisne Judge, was promoted to be First Puisne Judge and was succeeded as Second Puisne Judge by Mr. S. O. Rowan-Hamilton on the 27th June.

At the death, on the 15th December, 1916, of His Honour Leslie Jarvis, Commissioner of the Virgin Islands, who was acting as Commissioner of Montserrat, Mr. R. H. Kortright Dyett, Chief Registrar, was appointed to act as Commissioner of Montserrat.

XII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

ANTIGUA.

The revenue of Antigua in 1916–17 was £63,930 and exceeded the estimates by £5,748, being an increase of £12,404 over that of the previous year. The total expenditure was £56,101, being £741 in excess of the estimates of the year, but £586 below that of the previous year.

The values of the imports and exports in 1916 were £192,107 and £375,111, as against £160,909 and £216,640 in 1915, respectively.

The values of the chief exports from the Presidency, as compared with those of the previous year, were:—

Article.	1915.	1916.
Vacuum Pan Sugar	£156,536	£262,088
Muscovado Sugar	21,208	61,047
Molasses and Syrup	20,351	29,025
Cotton	4,776	5,052
Onions	2,064	2,833
Hides and Skins	1,018	1,500
Preserved Fruits	1,306	1,425
Green Limes	—	904
Lime Juice	813	613

The twelfth annual report of the Antigua Sugar Factory, Limited, stated that the Company had had a very successful year in all respects. The island had the best growing season since 1891, and that year was said to be the best ever seen. The crops on the original contracting estates were 50 per cent. heavier than their average throughout the previous eleven years of the history of the factory, and this fairly represents the position throughout Antigua. The following figures give the result of the year and a comparison with the previous year of the work of the Company:—

		1915.	1916.
Canes	Tons	81,520	112,356
Sugar	,,	8,390	12,371
Yield of Sugar	Per cent.	10·29	11·01

After charging the revenue of the Company for debenture and additional sinking funds, there remained a surplus of £69,967.

The continued growth of the Antigua Onion Growers' Association is a matter for satisfaction, because the work it has done has been the means of placing the onion industry on a sound basis. The affiliated associations in Montserrat and Nevis were, during the year, kept in touch by the Antigua Association with the condition of the various markets. The total number of crates shipped by the Association was 5,664, as against 5,353 in 1915–16, being 311 in excess of last year's shipments, which number creates a record. After all expenses were paid, the total amount available for distribution among the growers was £1,855, or $2·94 per 100 pounds of onions.

The Cotton Growers' Association of Antigua was formed as the outcome of an Agricultural Conference on Cotton held in St. Kitts in March, 1916. The results for the season were very satisfactory, and, encouraged by high prices, the cultivation by peasant proprietors is extending, their cotton being bought by the Association, which offers an opening flat rate and distributes three-fourths of the profits from the sale of the lint among the sellers, the remaining fourth going to the funds of the Association.

A Lime Growers' Association was also started in 1916 and was affiliated to the Antigua Onion Growers and Cotton Growers' Association and a Central Board for co-operative organisations was subsequently formed, comprising one representative each from the Onion, Cotton, and Lime Growers' Associations and two from the Agricultural and Commercial Society, for the purpose of encouraging agricultural developments generally.

It will be interesting to watch whether the co-operative movement, which has proved so powerful a factor in the extension of agricultural industries in European countries and in the United States, will play a leading part in the development of minor industries in the West Indies.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.*

1916–17.

The revenue for 1916–17 was £60,086, an increase on that for 1915–16 of £14,762, of which amount £8,203 was due to extra taxation. The actual revenue exceeded that estimated by £5,673, of which £3,935 was due to extra taxation imposed subsequently to the framing of the estimates.

The expenditure for 1916–17 was £54,124, a decrease of £2,522 on that for 1915–16, but an excess on the estimated expenditure of £426. No extraordinary public works were undertaken and the utmost economy possible was practised in every direction.

In December, 1916, the additional export duties on sugar and molasses which had been imposed in October, 1915, were continued for another year until 30th November, 1917.

As a precautionary measure against the dangers arising from an exiguous and shrinking surplus, an Emergency War Tax Ordinance was passed whereby port and harbour dues and land and house taxes were increased 50 per cent. for the financial year 1916–17.

An export duty was also imposed on cotton for the crop year, 1st October, 1916, to 30th September, 1917, at the rate of ½*d.* per lb. on St. Kitts cotton and ¼*d.* per lb. on Nevis and Anguilla cotton.

The amount raised by this extra taxation was :—

Port and Harbour Dues	£1,720
Land and House Taxes	1,886
Cotton Export Duty	329

The sugar crop of 1916 produced 16,106 tons, the highest figure since 1902. Of this total, 11,690 tons were produced by the Sugar Factory, being its record up to date. Since 1902, the acreage under cane cultivation has decreased by about 3,000 acres. Improved methods of cultivation, combined with favourable weather, account for the satisfactory output.

The export of cotton decreased from 489,120 lb. in 1915 to 307,624 lb. in 1916, which decrease was due partly to a decrease in acreage under cotton, resulting from the high price of sugar, and partly to unfavourable weather conditions.

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* By His Honour, the Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis.

The quantity of rum distilled locally was 19,053 gallons, an increase of 4,683 gallons on the amount for 1915. Of the rum produced, 15,714 gallons were sold for local consumption, an increase by 7,968 gallons on the amount sold in the previous year, but this increase was balanced by a decrease of 8,106 gallons of imported rum.

No epidemic visited the island during the year. There were some sporadic cases of typhoid, enough to emphasise the need for improvement in sanitation, but not enough to cause alarm. The campaign against yaws proceeded successfully but was somewhat limited by difficulties in procuring salvarsan.

The Presidency escaped the hurricanes which so seriously injured two sister Presidencies.

The general state of the Presidency was one of prosperity and of good augury for the future.

Owing to the increased cost of living at the end of 1915, it became apparent to the planters that higher wages were necessary to enable the labourers to pay their way. On the estates connected with the Sugar Factory an increase ranging from 17 per cent. to 28 per cent. for the various categories of labour was given for the work involved in reaping the 1916 crop. It is impossible to state precisely the increase given by the remaining estates in the Presidency as the increase was not uniform. But, speaking generally, it may be said that wages for 1916, on the majority of such estates, showed an advance of from 20 per cent. to 25 per cent. on those prior to the outbreak of war. At the close of 1916 the wages paid by the Factory Estates for the 1916 crop were raised again by from 14 per cent. to 33⅓ per cent. Thus all crop wages on Factory Estates have advanced for 1917 by from 33⅓ per cent. to 71 per cent., according to the class of labour, on the figures for 1915; and for all other classes of labour on these estates, wages have been raised 25 per cent. for 1917. The remaining, or Muscovado Estates, have also, as a general rule, granted a further increase, both for reaping the crop and for most other classes of labour, of from 20 per cent. to 25 per cent. for 1917. These increases for 1917 were made possible by the excellence of the high prices obtained for the 1916 crop.

An increase of 50 per cent. was also accorded to stevedores, lightermen, and porters early in 1916. Domestic and other wages have also been very generally raised.

At the beginning of 1917 the Government granted an increase of 25 per cent. to the labourers of the Agricultural Department and a war bonus of 10 per cent. to the junior Government officials and other employés.

The Agricultural Superintendent, Mr. F. R. Shepherd, carried on the work in cotton seed selection as in previous years, and an attempt was made to test the purity of the strains by means of target diagrams. By this method it was shown that two of the selected strains, Nos. 342 and 208, were of pure strain. The seed from No. 342 is largely used for planting the cotton crop for next season.

DOMINICA.*

The year 1916 will be remembered in Dominica as that of two severe storms. The first, of 28th August, caused the loss of 52 lives, destroyed a considerable amount of cultivation, and a large area of mountain forest.

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* By His Honour, the Administrator of Dominica.

Some temporary scarcity resulted, but the measures locally taken, supported by the generosity of the Island of Martinique, which voted £500 for relief, sufficed to tide over the worst months, and the astonishing recuperative power of the island combined to make any appeal for outside help unnecessary.

On 7th October, another storm, this time from the sea, did very extensive damage all along the coast. It was raised by the hurricane which did so much damage in the Virgin Islands. There was no wind in Dominica, but the size of the waves exceeded anything within living memory and destroyed houses which had been safe for 60 and 70 years.

In both these storms the roads suffered much damage and the Presidency had to face the cost of this work, which amounted to some thousands of pounds.

On the 17th May, 1916, an Ordinance, No. 2 of 1916, enacted certain special taxation for the raising of a sum of £10,000 to be given to His Majesty's Government to be used as seemed best to them in the prosecution of the War.

Resolutions of Legislative Council affirmed the willingness of the Presidency to defray the cost of separation allowances and pensions, to the members of the British West Indies Regiment recruited in Dominica.

Recruiting for the regiment has been, from the first, easy in Dominica. There is a marked readiness to enlist on the part of the labouring classes and among the sons of small peasant proprietors. Several hundred men gave their names as recruits.

The pressure of the War was increasingly felt in the advance of prices and the increasing irregularity of steamer services.

An extra link with Europe was provided by the arrangement made with the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique that their mail steamers en route for Martinique from France should call at Dominica with mails, and should take mails for Europe on their return.

The price of lime products was well maintained, but it is increasingly clear that the Dominica lime planter will have to face keen and business-like competition in the future, and that from his near neighbours. The advantages of secondary industries have been preached to the planters, and it is to be hoped that they will have foresight enough to establish them in time. Probably the most profitable would be the coconut, the price of which, as copra, has increased some 400 per cent. during the last 15 years, while the undried nut has a very large market in America and elsewhere.

That vanilla will grow well in Dominica, with care and expert cultivation, has now been proved beyond doubt; and its export may, and should, become considerable in the near future.

AGRICULTURE.*

For the second year in succession, climatic conditions for progress in agricultural industries proved unfavourable. On 28th August a hurricane of greater intensity than that experienced in the previous year passed over the island and inflicted considerable damage to cultivation of every kind.

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* By the Agricultural Superintendent Dominica

In the staple industry, the lime crop for 1916, calculated in barrels of a capacity of 4·55 cubic feet, amounted to 384,298 barrels, of which concentrated juice contributed 60, raw juice 20, fresh limes 10, and citrate of limes 10 per cent. Although the number of barrels was 6,160 below that of 1915, it is remarkable that such satisfactory results should have been achieved in spite of bad weather conditions. The values of the different forms of lime products were:—

	£
Concentrated lime juice	44,379
Raw lime juice	50,452
Raw juice cordial	772
Green limes	47,852
Pickled limes	415
Citrate of lime	9,244
Essential oil of limes	16,803
Otto of limes	2,435
	£172,352

Compared with the previous year, there was a decrease in value of £2,052. The heavy shipments of raw lime juice during the past two years have been due in a large measure to the requirements of the Allied armies and navies. The shipments of green limes have fallen off to the extent of 6,000 barrels, and this decrease cannot be attributed to lack of shipping facilities or to any falling off in the demand, but to the efforts of those who have made great attempts to build up a sound trade creditable to the island, by the shipment of produce of the highest quality, being largely discounted by the irresponsible action of others forwarding inferior fruit to the market. At the end of 1916, proposals were laid by the Administrator before the newly formed Chamber of Commerce with a view of organising a system of the inspection of fruit before shipment.

During the year, the number of samples of juice sent in by the planters to the recently established laboratory increased, and progress has been made in the manufacture of lime products, the chief difficulty in preparing clean juice being the treatment of the sediment and in economic concentration.

There is a movement on foot in Dominica to establish Agricultural Credit Societies similar to those existing in St. Vincent, where the effort has met with considerable success. The assistance most urgently required by the small owners is some means of disposing of their lime crop, and a scheme has been formulated for the erection of a Government Co-operative Factory, at Grand Bay, where a crop estimated at 6,000 barrels is produced annually.

Another fall has to be recorded in the export of cacao. Twenty years ago the figures were the same, with a progressive upward tendency. The maximum export was in 1902, when 12,000 cwt. were exported and the output remained practically stationary until 1912, since which year it has declined to 5,707 cwt. in 1916. The heavy decline may be principally due to the hurricane of 1915 and it is to be expected that the tropical disturbance of last year, which affected cacao cultivation to a much larger extent, will cause a further reduction in the exports.

The values of the minor products exported during 1916 are :—

Oranges	£581
Orange Oil	275
Bay Leaves	359
Bay Oil	1,149
Bananas	40
Coffee	180
Hardwood	141
Vanilla	485

In the matter of imported foodstuffs Dominica is in a more favourable position than some of the other Leeward Islands, for it is computed that for every 100 lb. of flour, corn meal, peas and beans, and rice imported into Dominica per head of population in 1914–15, Antigua imported 180 lb. and St. Kitts 162 lb. per head. The main obstacle in securing an abundant supply of home-grown produce to Roseau, is the difficulty of transport. The vegetable most popular with the peasantry is the dasheen (*Colocasia antiquorum*, var. esculenta), the taro of the Fijians, which was introduced into Dominica from Martinique about 30 years ago. Another important root crop is the cassava (*Manihot utilissima*), which is largely grown in the Windward districts and forms one of the principal foods of the people throughout the island. The meal, or farine, can be stored for months, and this gives it considerable value as a food-stuff in times of drought and scarcity. Though large quantities of peas and beans are grown locally, there is not sufficient production to meet local requirements and over 40,000 lb. are imported annually. The increased production and consumption would give a better balanced dietary, which would mean better health and more energy to the consumers. Although in normal times the existence of wild food-plants and the abundance of breadfruit trees are deplored by employers of labour as tending to make the people indolent, Dominica, at the present crisis, is fortunate in having three wild food-plants, namely, the " Waw-waw," or Carib yam (*Rajania pleioneura*), the Baba-ou-lé, a kind of yam, and the Topee Tambou (*Calathea Allouya*), which in times of stress might be of inestimable service.

MONTSERRAT.*

1916–17.

Notwithstanding the adverse influences of the War, the Presidency enjoyed, during the year, a fair measure of the prosperity with which it has been favoured in recent years.

The revenue was estimated at £10,527 and the expenditure at £11,345, thus showing an anticipated deficit of £818. The actual revenue was, however, £13,422 and the actual expenditure £12,985, leaving a net gain on the year's working of £447.

The increase in revenue of £2,895 was made up, principally, of an advance in Custom duties of £1,424 and of an increase in Post Office receipts of £1,304, consequent on the sale of a new issue of stamps.

The excess of £1,640 was mainly caused by military expenses and by the expenditure on public works, which included the acquisition of a new spring of water at Broderick's Estate for the improvement of the water supply of Plymouth and the establishment of a telephone system.

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* By His Honour, R. H. K. Dyett, Acting Commissioner of Montserrat.

On the 31st March, 1917, the surplus funds, of which the sum of £5,000 was invested in the British 5 per cent. War Loan, amounted to £13,658, as against £13,219 on the same date in 1916, an advance of £439.

The principal exports during the year were cotton, sugar, and lime products.

In the year 1916, 998 bales of cotton, of the value of £33,080, were exported, as against 932 bales of cotton, of the value of £22,712, in 1915. The cotton crop was above the average in yield, and the 1,997 acres cultivated gave an average yield of 156 lb. of lint per acre, compared with an average return of 146 lb. during the previous 14 years. The prices obtained on the market were a cause for satisfaction for they averaged 3*s.* 3*d.* per lb., as contrasted with 1*s.* 6*d.* per lb. in 1915, while it was recorded by the spinners that the quality of Montserrat cotton has steadily and consistently improved of late years. As a result of the higher prices, considerable stimulus was given to the cultivation of cotton among small owners and the importance of the industry to this class of growers cannot be exaggerated.

The export of muscovado sugar was 417 tons, of the value of £7,827, as compared with 64 tons, of the value of £1,152, in 1915, so that there was a considerable revival in sugar-cane cultivation. The high prices for sugar have brought comparative prosperity to estates in the centre of the island unsuitable for the cultivation of cotton, which have been hard pressed for years past to find a sufficiently remunerative crop. Sugar-cane as a rotation crop with cotton is, also, found to give excellent results.

The total value of lime products exported was £18,372, as against £9,560 in 1915.

The report on the working of the Montserrat Onion Growers' Association, which the Government again agreed to finance to the extent of £200 on a 3 per cent. basis, affords interesting reading, for it shows the benefits to be derived by co-operative association, even when practised on a small scale. The shipment of onions totalled 812 crates and 19 barrels. A first payment at 1 cent per lb. and a subsequent bonus of 2·39 cents per lb. were made.

There was a slight decrease in the amount of papaine exported, in spite of the high price, 1*s.* 6*d.* per lb., obtained. This is peculiarly a peasants' industry, and the amount of attention paid to it depends largely whether the cultivation of papaws or cotton offers the greater attraction.

In the early part of October, the island was visited by a severe storm, which caused considerable damage to the roads.

During the year, the health of the Presidency was good, the death-rate being 17·63 per 1,000.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The revenue of the Virgin Islands in 1916–17 was £5,030, being an increase of £1,011 over that of 1915–16, while the expenditure was £5,962, as against £5,288 in the previous year.

The values of the imports and exports in 1916 were £9,010 and £7,750, as against £8,452 and £6,836 in 1915, respectively.

The values of the principal exports were :—

	£
Cattle	2,412
Cotton	2,075*
Small Stock	1,003
Fruits	814
Charcoal	381
Horses	205

* £1,535 in 1915.

A destructive cyclone swept over the islands on the 9th October and wrought havoc to buildings and cultivation.

XIII.—CONCLUDING REMARKS.

The year was one of prosperity for all the Presidencies with the exception of the Virgin Islands. Were it not for the greatly increased cost of living, which presses severely on the middle and labouring classes, it could not be said that the Colony has appreciably suffered by the general disturbance of trade caused by the War. The high prices obtained for all the staple products should enable owners of estates to free themselves from pecuniary obligations, to improve their methods of cultivation and manufacture and thus to prepare them to face, under more favourable conditions than have been experienced for years, future competition in the different markets.

F. H. Watkins,
Acting Colonial Secretary for the
Leeward Islands.

26th October, 1917.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
915	British Honduras	1915
916	Mauritius	,,
917	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
918	St. Lucia	1915–1916
919	Nyasaland	,,
920	Nigeria	1915
921	East Africa Protectorate	1915–1916
922	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
923	Hong Kong	1916
924	Weihaiwei	,,
925	Zanzibar	,,
926	Fiji	,,
927	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
928	Cayman Islands	1915–1916
929	Seychelles	1916
930	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
931	Gibraltar	,,
932	Bahamas	1916–1917
933	St. Helena	1916
934	Ceylon	,,
935	Malta	1916–1917
936	Gambia	1916
937	British Guiana	,,
938	Falkland Islands	,,
939	Sierra Leone	,,
940	Straits Settlements	,,
941	Cyprus	1916–1917
942	Grenada	,,
943	Jamaica	,,
944	Somaliland	,,
945	Swaziland	,,
946	Nigeria	1916
947	Basutoland	1916–1917
948	Gold Coast	1916
949	Ashanti	,,
950	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1916–1917
951	Barbados	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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No. 992.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1917-18.

(For Report for 1916-17 see No. 952.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty,
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No. 992.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1917-18.*

1.—FINANCIAL.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1918, was £192,047, showing an increase of £1,987, in comparison with the revenue for the year 1916–17.

The expenditure for the year 1917–18, exclusive of Imperial grants, was £198,157, as against £185,095 for the previous year, showing an increase of £13,062.

The surplus of assets over liabilities on the 31st March, 1918, amounted to £38,329, as compared with £44,538 on the 31st March, 1917, a decrease of £6,209, and was made up as follows:—

	£
Antigua	10,784
St. Kitts-Nevis	10,876
Dominica	2,311
Montserrat	13,848
Virgin Islands	610
	£38,329

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounts to £259,850.

The following table shows the amount of the loans raised and the amounts standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds on the 31st March, 1917.

Presidency.	Total amount of loans raised.		Amount to credit of Sinking Fund.
	£		£
Antigua	122,891	..	51,088
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	67,250	..	27,094
Dominica	65,000	..	28,394
Montserrat	11,100	..	4,260
	£266,241	..	£110,836
Less amount repaid ..	6,391	..	—
Total ..	£259,850	..	£110,836

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* Maps will be found in the Report for 1913–1914, No. 814 [Cd. 7622–32].

(C555) Wt.1/115. 1,000 & 90. 5.19. B&F.Ltd. Gp.11/14.

II.—IMPORTS, EXPORTS, AND SHIPPING.

IMPORTS.

The total value of imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1917, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £869,746, as against £642,249, in 1916, being an increase of £227,497.

The value of the internal trade between the Presidencies amounted to £32,033, as against £33,256, being a decrease of £1,223.

EXPORTS.

The total value of exports for the year 1917 was £1,094,631, as against £1,121,553 in 1916, being a decrease of £26,922.

Total Tonnage of Shipping Entered and Cleared.

	1915.	1916.	1917.
Antigua ..	755,924	547,678	600,205
St. Kitts-Nevis	790,752	586,697	598,317
Dominica ..	636,348	606,408	618,971
Montserrat ..	319,600	347,298	305,424
Virgin Islands	13,212	12,876	12,572

III.—EDUCATION.

The number of elementary schools in the Colony in the year under review was 98, distributed among the islands as follows:—

Antigua, 17; Barbuda, 1; St. Kitts, 18; Nevis, 10; Anguilla, 5; Dominica, 27; Montserrat, 13; Virgin Islands, 7; total, 98.

The numbers enrolled were 23,396, compared with 24,052 in 1916–17, whilst the average daily attendance was 45·1 per cent., against 45·5 per cent. in the previous year.

The total expenditure on the primary schools, exclusive of salaries of the departmental officers and of establishment charges was £9,591, as against £9,145 in the previous year.

Although the difficulty of obtaining supplies on account of the War has considerably hampered the efforts of the teachers, marked improvement in discipline and organisation was evident in nearly all the schools.

IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

In the year 1917, 6,174 patients were admitted into the hospitals of the Colony, as against 4,147 in the previous year. 340 deaths occurred in the hospitals during the year.

There is a central lunatic asylum at Skerrets, Antigua. At the end of 1917 there were 164 inmates, while the average number was 153, 68 males and 85 females.

There are two leper asylums in the Colony, one at Rat Island, Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles, in St. Kitts. In Antigua, 37 inmates remained in the institution at the end of the year, the average daily number being 21 males and 19 females. In St. Kitts the daily average number was 68, 39 males and 29 females.

The number of depositors in the savings banks on the 31st March, 1918, was 2,907, and the amount of their credit was £73,231.

V.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The total number of persons in the Colony committed to prison during the year 1917 was 1,197 (674 males, 500 females and 23 juveniles), as against 1,155 (675 males, 453 females and 27 juveniles) in 1916.

Prisoners sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment are sent to the Common Prison of the Leeward Islands, in Antigua, and immediately before the expiration of their sentences are returned to the Presidencies from which they were committed. In 1917, 40 prisoners were transferred to the Central Prison, 20 being sent from St. Kitts-Nevis, 14 from Dominica, 5 from Montserrat, and 1 from the Virgin Islands, the total daily average being 84, 70 males and 14 females.

The daily average of the St. John's Training School in Antigua, to which boys are sent from all the Presidencies and which was established under the provisions of the Leeward Islands Act, No. 4, of 1891, for the reformation, education, and training of boys under 18 years of age, was 66. The expenditure was £1,061 and the receipts £545, the cost per head to Antigua being £18. The health of the school was good. The boys were employed in agricultural and garden work in addition to the ordinary indoor work of the school. The grounds at Government House were kept in order by some of the younger boys and a few of the older boys were apprenticed to managers of neighbouring estates and others, while still remaining inmates of the school.

Comparative table of criminal statistics for 1916 and 1917:

	1916.	1917.
Cases reported to the Police ..	4,582	5,947
Number of persons brought before the Magisterial Courts	15,913	18,847
Summary Convictions	7,936	8,390
Indictments in the Superior Courts	91	75
Convictions in the Superior Courts	75	60

VI.—POLICE.

The actual strength of the Force on the 31st March, was 5 officers and 165 non-commissioned officers and men, not including 2 officers and 17 men abroad on active service. The authorized establishment, as provided for in the Estimates, was 6 officers and 181 non-commissioned officers and men.

Twenty-six men were enlisted to fill vacancies. Although the vacancies were not filled, the inducement of the increased pay and allowances sanctioned in July, 1917, had the desired effect of improving recruiting.

During the year the discipline was very good, the total number of offences being 9 below the figures of the previous year.

Praedial larceny cases are, for the whole Colony, 329 above those of the previous year. Dominica shows the largest increase in this class of offence, 532 cases being entered as against 338 in 1916. The high prices of imported foodstuffs and the scarcity of ground provisions were incentives to praedial larceny.

Prosecutions under the Masters' and Servants' Act, including labour contract cases, show an increase of 211, as compared with those in

1916. This increase was divided as follows among the Presidencies:—Antigua, 83; St. Kitts-Nevis, 95; Dominica, 13; and Montserrat, 20.

The actual expenditure on the force for the financial year was £12,463, as compared with £11,418 in the previous year, the increase being mainly attributable to an increase in strength owing to improved recruiting and to expenses incurred on account of the civil disturbances in Antigua.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Colony according to the census of 1911, was 127,193.

In Antigua, the estimated population on the 31st December, 1917, was 31,782. The number of marriages registered in the Presidency in 1917 was 143, as against 155 in 1916, while the births were 1,076, being 33·86 per 1,000. The legitimate births were 260 and the illegitimate births 816, the percentage being 24·16 and 75·84, respectively. The deaths during the year numbered 950, which gives a death rate of 29·89 per 1,000. The deaths of children under one year, exclusive of still-births, were 188 or 19·79 per cent. of the total.

In respect to the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis, the number of inhabitants at the close of 1917 was estimated as follows:—St. Kitts, 26,984; Nevis, 14,099; Anguilla, 4,808, the birth-rates being St. Kitts, 34·909 per thousand, Nevis 34·683 and Anguilla 43·240, while the death-rate for St. Kitts was 29·425, for Nevis, 21·207 and for Anguilla, 14·767. The illegitimate birth-rate for St. Kitts was 25·832 per thousand, for Nevis 21·774, and for Anguilla 21·007, as against the legitimate birth-rate of 9·070, 12·908 and 22·254 for St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla, respectively. The mortality of infants under one year of age is high, being 264·331, 204·500 and 120·191 of the total death-rate in St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla respectively.

In Dominica the estimated population at the end of 1917 was 39,800. The births registered during the year numbered 1,455, as against 1,448 in 1916, giving a birth-rate of 30·65 per thousand. Illegitimate births exceeded the legitimate by 203 (829, as against 626), the percentage of legitimate and illegitimate births being respectively 43·02 and 56·98. The total number of registered deaths was 1,122, as against 987 in 1916, while the death-rate was 28·18. Of the deaths in 1917, 505 were of children under 5 years of age or 45 per cent. of the whole number.

The report on the vital statistics for Montserrat in 1917 shows a population of 11,183 on the 31st December, 1917, the births registered being 422, as against 332 in 1916, and showing a birth-rate of 37·80. The legitimate births were 152 and the illegitimate 270, the percentage being 36·02 and 63·98 respectively. The deaths registered were 181, as against 196 in 1916, and the death-rate was 16·21 per thousand, as against that of 17·63 in the previous year.

The general health of the Colony during the year was satisfactory, but no great advance will be made in health and sanitary conditions until the people, as a whole, are brought to realize the importance of cleanliness in elementary habits and of ventilation and a well-regulated diet, especially for infants.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Presidencies.	Rainfall.*	Maximum Temperature	Minimum Temperature.	Mean Temperature 9 a.m.	
				Dry.	Wet.
	Inches.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.
Antigua ..	39	92	61	80	74
St. Kitts ..	40	88	66	74·8	71·6
Dominica ..	110	—	—	—	—
Montserrat ..	68	93	63	80	74
Virgin Islands	39	—	—	—	—

* Taken at the Botanical Stations.

ANTIGUA.

The average rainfall was taken at 70 stations. The average annual rainfall for 44 years is 45·04 inches, and the rainfall for 1917 was 8·42 inches below the average. The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 1·93 inches, on July 3rd.

ST. KITTS.

The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 2·42 inches on September 7th. The rainfall taken at 35 stations in 1916 was 69·51 inches.

DOMINICA.

The greatest rainfall in a month was 31·35 inches at Bellevue, in September. The mean rainfall at different stations was :—

13 Leeward Stations	.. ..	88·67 inches
3 Windward Stations	.. ..	123·90 „
8 Inland Stations ..	.. ..	149·30 „
6 Lasoye Stations ..	.. ..	99·49 „

MONTSERRAT.

The mean rainfall of 21 stations was 56·43 inches. The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 5·50 inches on September 20th.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The rainfall for the period April 1, 1917, to March 31, 1918, was 39·22 inches, and was 14·24 inches below the average for the preceding 17 years. Rain fell in measurable quantity on 191 days of the same period.

A cyclonic disturbance passed to the S.W. of Tortola on the 20–21st September. There were slight earthquake shocks on August 9th, at 7.05 a.m. ; August 26th, 12.15 p.m. ; and October 16th, 3.45 a.m.

IX.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and the Quebec Steamship Company. The mails are conveyed between Tortola and St. Thomas, and between Tortola and Virgin Gorda by a sloop belonging to the Government, and by private boats, as follows :—

From Tortola to St. Thomas about four times a week, and
From Tortola to Virgin Gorda about six times a month.

There is a fortnightly mail service by sailing boat between St. Kitts and Anguilla. A sloop is also subsidised by the Government of Montserrat to take mails and passengers between that Presidency, Antigua, and St. Kitts.

Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other the other West Indian Colonies, Europe, and America by the cables of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company. There is no communication by telegraph with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands. Messages can, however, be sent to Montserrat by flashlight via Antigua. St. Kitts is in heliograph communication with Nevis.

The revenue and expenditure account of the Post Offices of the different Presidencies of the Colony showed a profit of £1,738.

X.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

As it was not possible for His Excellency, Sir E. M. Merewether, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., to assume the Government, the Honourable T. A. V. Best, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, continued to administer the Government of the Colony throughout the year.

The Honourable W. D. Auchinleck, I.S.O., Auditor General of the Colony, acted as Colonial Secretary until the 26th August, 1917, when Mr. F. H. Watkins, I.S.O., late Colonial Secretary of Grenada, was appointed to act as Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands.

XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

The estimates of the General Government of the Colony showed that £12,696 would be required to meet the estimated expenditure of the financial year. Of this sum £245 represented estimated receipts from various services leaving £12,451 to be contributed by the different Presidencies. The actual receipts for the year exceeded the estimates by £165, and through a decrease in expenditure presidential contributions were £618 less than estimated.

Principal Exports.

	1916.	1917.
	£	£
Vacuum Pan Sugar	562,904	477,031
Muscovado Sugar	122,384	121,559
Molasses and Syrup	46,038	58,413
Cotton, Raw	82,505	78,460
Limes, Citrate	9,597	6,930
,, Concentrated	45,245	58,554
,, Raw Juice	68,643	84,528
,, Cordial	772	103
,, Fresh	48,840	48,454
,, Pickled	440	403
Cocoa	16,692	8,239

As a result of discussions between His Majesty's and the United States Governments regarding food supplies, full and detailed estimates were given by the Presidencies as to their requirements in

1918. These estimates formed the basis of what licences were issued in the United States for the exportation of foodstuffs to the Colony. Local Food Control Committees were appointed in each Presidency to issue certificates to local importers to enable them to obtain licences for shipment from the United States. Under the circumstances, the supply of the flour, cornmeal, and other foodstuffs was satisfactorily maintained, on the whole, by this arrangement. Although every effort was made to induce estate owners and labourers to plant ground provisions so as to increase local food supplies, the severe drought in Antigua made the production of local foodstuffs impossible, so that the dependence of that island upon imported supplies was accentuated.

In October, owing to difficulties in obtaining sufficient supplies of Sea Island cotton for aeronautical purposes, the British Government found it necessary, in Imperial interests, to acquire all Sea Island cotton produced in the Colony. With a view to its purchase the prohibition of its exportation was enforced. The cotton offered was bought, ginned, baled and delivered at the port of shipment, and the planters were accordingly relieved of all difficulties as to the provision of tonnage. The following scale was fixed :—

Ordinary	3*s.* 0*d.* per lb.
Good Ordinary	3*s.* 4*d.* ,,
Superfine	3*s.* 9*d.* to 4*s.* 7*d.* ,,

Stains were paid for at the market value on arrival in the United Kingdom. An advance of 2*s.* 6*d.* per lb. for unstained, and 1*s.* for stained was paid on delivery, the balance being paid after grading had been completed in the United Kingdom.

Intense interest was evinced throughout the Colony during the year in the progress of the War and the following amounts were contributed by the Presidencies to the " Our Day " fund :—

	£
St. Kitts-Nevis	386
Dominica	310
Antigua	226
Montserrat	67

or a total of £989 from the Colony.

ANTIGUA.

The Revenue for the year 1917–18, which is the largest on record for at least 30 years, reached £66,768, and exceeded the estimates by £6,383, the average Revenue of the Presidency for the last quinquennial period having been £57,597, as compared with £51,638 for the five years antecedent to 1913–14.

Notwithstanding the increased cost of all supplies the revenue from imports exceeded that of the preceding year by £1,440, this increase being attributable to the improved purchasing power of the labouring population owing to the higher rate of wages. In the past two years too, the Presidency, by the imposition of an export duty on sugar and molasses in 1915, has raised £13,456. It is satisfactory to note that all heads of revenue, with the exception of internal revenue, Head 3, showed marked excesses on the estimates.

The Expenditure of the year estimated at £58,685, reached £64,398, and exceeded that of the previous year by £8,297.

Value of the Principal Exports in 1916-1917.

	1916. £	1917. £
Vacuum Pan Sugar	262,088	255,607
Muscovado Sugar	61,047	65,140
Molasses and Syrup	29,025	31,094
Raw Cotton	5,052	5,141
Onions	2,833	3,140
Hides and Skins	1,500	1,685
Preserved Fruits	1,425	1,890
Lime Juice	613	1,012
Green Limes	904	653

In the thirteenth annual report of the Antigua Sugar Factory, Limited, it is shown that the total tonnage of canes dealt with during 1917 was 102,593, derived from the following sources:—The original contractors supplied 25,796 tons for which £1 16*s*. per ton was paid including the bonus; new contractors supplied 71,172 tons of cane, for which £1 9*s*. per ton was paid, including bonus; from peasants, were bought 5,624 tons at the rate of 20*s*. 10*d*. per ton. The number of tons of sugar made was 11,705, and the total proceeds from sugar and molasses were £252,617. The total expenditure was £184,560, thus leaving a surplus for division of over £68,000.

That the factory work was maintained at the high level reached in 1916, is plain from the following figures. The sucrose left in megass in 1916 was 3·01 per cent., while in 1917 it was lowered to 2·66. In 1916, the purity of the juice was 83·95, and in 1917 it was increased to 84·78. In 1916, the yield of sugar was 11·01; in 1917 it was 11·42.

It is calculated that the improvement in the recovery of sucrose in the factory, as compared with the average of the five years immediately preceding the War, is equivalent to giving the planters 2½ tons of cane additional to the acre.

In spite of the increased cost of working due to the war, the results of Bendal's Sugar Factory were very satisfactory. The total weight of canes purchased by the factory was approximately 19,087 tons, from which were manufactured 2,121 tons of sugar. The average quality of the canes delivered showed considerable improvement over that of previous years, and resulted in a ton of sugar being made from slightly under 9 tons of cane. With a view to shorten the manufacturing season and to make the work to be done when the canes are ripest and give the best sugar yields, day and night work has been introduced at the factory. The balance of profits for the year ended the 31st October, 1917, was £4,981.

An estate, 234 acres in area, of which between 80 to 100 acres are good arable land, in the southern end of the island had been set aside for land settlement, but, in consequence of the scheme being regarded with considerable suspicion by the peasants, the first allotment was not taken up until July, 1917. Considerable progress was made in disposing of the plots during the year, 41 allotments of a total area of 55 acres and of the value of £401 being purchased.

Rules governing the scheme were passed by the Governor in Council in respect of the survey, conditions of purchase, registration, reserves, and tenure of the lots.

During the past few years considerable attention has been given by the Agricultural Department to the question of co-operation among planters, and there exists in Antigua onion growers, cotton growers, and lime growers' associations. In 1916 it was realized that the work of these associations would be furthered if a Central Board were formed, consisting of a representative from each, together with representatives from the Antigua Agricultural and Commercial Society. The object of the Central Board is to facilitate the extension of co-operative effort. The Board is empowered to raise money by loans or other means, to embark in trading enterprises, to purchase land or buildings, to appoint and organize sub-committees and meetings of private or public character, and to establish and regulate organizations for co operative purposes.

The progress made by the Cotton Growers' Association indicates that work of a useful nature has been done. In addition to placing in the hands of small growers seeds of the best type of cotton available, it guarantees a fair and reasonable price for their produce.

During the year, the operations of the Onion Growers' Association were conducted on lines similar to those in past years. Only 54,000 lb. were received at the drying house, as against 303,000 lb. in the previous season, this decrease being attributable to a severe drought and the late arrival of seeds for planting. Shipments were made to several West Indian Islands, but, on account of shipping difficulties, no crates were sent to Canada or the United States. After paying expenses, the amount available for distribution among growers was £430, or at the rate of 3·80 cents. per 100 lb. delivered. In spite of the decrease in the quantities shipped, the prices obtained indicate that the onions handled by the Association are regarded in the outside markets with confidence, and that the efforts made to place the industry on a sound basis have met with success.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.*

The revenue for 1917–18 was £60,221, being an increase on that for 1916–17 by £135. Of this revenue, £9,553 was due to emergency War taxation. The actual revenue exceeded that estimated by £3,008, of which £448 was due to extra taxation (specified below) imposed subsequently to the framing of the Estimates.

As a permanent increase of taxation the import duties on whisky and rum were increased on December 20th, 1917, from 6*s.* 6*d.* to 9*s.* per gallon, and from 4*s.* 4*d.* to 5*s.* per gallon, respectively; and the excise duty on rum was increased from 3*s.* plus 20 per cent. additional to 3*s.* plus 66⅔ per cent. additional per gallon. The additional revenue accruing from these increases was the £448 mentioned in the first paragraph.

The expenditure for 1917–18 was £61,331, an increase on that for 1916–17 by £7,207, and an excess on the estimated expenditure of £7,360. Of this excess, £2,000 was due to the gift of an aeroplane, the "St. Christopher," to the Imperial Government, and £2,481 to expenditure on defence and in connection with the British West Indies Regiment.

The sugar crop of 1917 amounted to 15,048 tons, a decrease, owing to weather conditions, by 1,058 tons on that for the previous year.

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* By His Honour the Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis.

The average tonnage of canes per acre from the contracting estates in the Basseterre Sugar Factory was 19·7 tons.

The export of cotton during 1917 was 300,581 lbs. of lint. In addition to this amount over 80,000 lbs. were awaiting shipment at the close of the year.

In order to meet the general food shortage caused by the War, efforts were made to stimulate the production of locally-grown provisions. As a result the acreage under provisions was considerably increased, but, owing to drought, with poor effect.

The quantity of rum distilled locally fell from 19,053 gallons in 1916 to 15,946 gallons in 1917.

The total exports fell from £455,142 in 1916 to £372,515 in 1917, while the total imports rose from £206,515 in 1916 to £296,594 in 1917.

The general condition of the Presidency was one of all round prosperity and of contentment owing to good wages.

DOMINICA.

The revenue of 1917, estimated at £46,231, came within £125 of that amount, but, compared with those of the previous year, the receipts were £2,084 less.

Import duties from other than alcoholic liquors fell short of the estimates by £690, while duties from imported spirits through the smaller consumption of local rum exceeded by £536 the amount estimated. The revenue from export duties was within a small amount of the estimate of £2,600. The net shortage under this head was £155.

The estimates as passed in Council represented an aggregate expenditure of £47,969, and an excess of £1,738 on the revenue, but through the higher cost of supplies, the actual expenditure of the year was £6,071 in excess of the estimates.

* The weather conditions during the year were normal. Shipping facilities also continued good, opportunities for direct shipment to a home port being fairly frequent during the crop season, while communication with New York and Canada remained on the same footing as during pre-War days. Up to the close of the period under review the shortage of shipping had not been seriously felt in connexion with the transport of the crops of the island.

The crop for 1917, calculated in barrels of a capacity of 4·55 cubic feet, amounted to 396,092 barrels. This is a record output, being 5,000 barrels in excess of the crop of 1913, and 6,000 over that of 1915, the two previous best years. Compared with the year 1916, the increase amounts to 12,000 barrels.

The lime crop for the past five years, calculated in barrels of fruit, is recorded below :—

1913	391,000
1914	388,000
1915	390,000
1916	384,000
1917	396,000

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* Notes on Agriculture were furnished by the Agricultural Superintendent, Dominica.

The following table, calculated on the usual basis, shows the disposal of the crop under the various heads :—

Product.	Barrels of fruit.	Approximate percentage of total crop.
Concentrated juice	224,662	56·7
Raw juice	103,751	26·1
Fresh limes	41,243	10·4
Citrate of lime	26,068	6·6

Comparison with the figures of last year's disposal of crop shows that the proportion shipped as concentrated juice fell from 59·5 to 56·7 per cent., while the position of raw juice rose from 20 to 26·1 per cent. The export of fresh limes shows a slight improvement. Citrate of lime fell from 10 to 6·6 per cent. There was a further shrinkage in the business of pickled limes and lime juice cordial; only 368 barrels of fruit being needed to meet the requirements of both heads.

The lime crop has been practically stationary during the past five years. This unfortunate lack of progress is largely due to the effects of the hurricanes of 1915 and 1916, to the difficulty of obtaining supplies of concentrated manures, and the increasing cost of labour. In this connexion the absence of a considerable number of estate proprietors of military age, who so patriotically offered their services to the Mother Country after the outbreak of war, must also be taken into account.

The value of the export of lime products during 1917 is as follows :—

Product.	£
Concentrated lime-juice	58,366
Raw lime-juice	65,546
Raw juice cordial	103
Green limes	47,734
Pickled limes	350
Citrate of lime	6,669
Essential oil of limes	17,900
Otto of limes	8,231
	204,899

The increase in values over the crop of 1916 amounted to £32,547.

Possibly the full effect of the hurricanes on cacao cultivation may have now been experienced, and from now on some recovery may be expected. But it is evident the cacao trees lost will not be replaced, therefore any return to the former output of 600 tons a year is not to be expected. Little attention is now given to this cultivation, and no new plantings of any extent are being made. Ultimately, cacao-growing in Dominica is likely to fall to the level of a minor industry.

MONTSERRAT.*

The good fortune, which, in spite of the War, has been favouring Montserrat, did not desert her during the year.

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* By His Honour the Acting Commissioner and the Curator of Montserrat.

The estimated Revenue was £10,845 14*s.*, and the estimated Expenditure was £12,642 17*s.* 4*d.*, showing an expected deficit of £1,797 3*s.* 4*d.*, but the actual Revenue received was £12,804 10*s.* 4*d.*, and the actual expenditure was £12,614 7*s.* 5½*d.*, leaving a surplus of £190 2*s.* 10½*d.*

The Import and Export Duties yielded the sum of £2,126 0*s.* 0*d.*, over the amount estimated to be received from those sources, of which amount £206 0*s.* 0*d.* was due to the increased rate of Export Duty on cotton, which came into effect on the 1st September, 1917.

The surplus funds of the Presidency on the 31st March, 1918, amounted to £13,848 8*s.* 4½*d.*, an increase over the amount on the 31st March, 1917, of £190 2*s.* 10½*d.*

The trade of the Presidency for the calendar year 1917 was £121,614; being an increase over that of the previous year of £4,233, as appears by the following figures :—

	1917.	1916.
Imports	£57,632	£46,133
Exports	63,982	71,248
	£121,614	£117,381

There was, however, a falling-off in the value of the exports due to the fact that almost the whole of the cotton crop for 1917, valued at about £50,000 remained unexported at the end of the year.

The chief exports during the year were cotton, sugar, and lime products.

On the 21st September, 1917, the island experienced a severe storm, which caused the loss of one life, and did considerable damage to the public roads. In this storm the contract mail sloop "Southern Cross" was lost with all hands, while on her regular voyage to St. Kitts.

Affairs in connection with the agriculture of the island continued in a healthy state in 1917. The high prices for the staple crop (cotton) were maintained, and the output of this crop was a record one, totalling 409,511 lbs. of lint, compared with the next highest output of 404,753lbs. in 1910.

The area cultivated in cotton was 2,608 acres, and the average production at the rate of 157 lbs. of lint per acre, which is 11 lbs. per acre above the average for the previous 14 years. Practically the whole of the crop was taken over by the Government for war purposes, a minimum price of 3*s.* per pound for ordinary grade and 3*s.* 4*d.* for good ordinary, being guaranteed for these grades, the status of the island's cotton being generally midway between these two grades.

The small growers of cotton benefitted greatly through the local competition for the purchase of their cotton crop, 10*d.* per lb. of seed cotton being paid for practically the whole of it, the highest price paid for seed cotton in any previous year having been 4*d.* per lb. The actual number of small growers was in the neighbourhood of 1,000, representing an area cultivated of between 700 and 800 acres.

There are no extraordinary features to record in connexion with the production of the crop, and the outlook for the future of the industry is very hopeful.

There was a considerable rise in the exports of lime products compared with the two previous years, the production being equal to 200,000 gallons of raw juice, compared with 134,384 gallons on the the average of the four previous years. This apparent increase in crop was due chiefly to the shipment of a larger proportion than usual of the year's crop before the close of the financial year, and not to any improvement or actual increase in production from the area cultivated in the crop.

The exports of muscovado sugar totalled 294 tons, compared with 417 tons exported in the previous year, the falling-off being due to an actual reduction of the area cultivated in plant canes, caused chiefly by the present boom in cotton cultivation, resulting in a shortage of labour on sugar cane estates. The present indications are that there will be no appreciable increase in the production of sugar so long as cotton prices remain high.

The planting of bay trees on a moderate scale continues, and the production of bay oil promises eventually to be an interesting minor industry.

The experimental work of the Agricultural Department has shown that the Ajowan plant can be cultivated as a source of thymol, and some interest has been aroused in the cultivation of a local plant *Datura Metel* as a source of an alkaloid-scopolamine (scopolamine).

On the whole it was considered that the labour conditions at the close of 1917 were more stable and satisfactory than during the two previous years.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The revenue of the Virgin Islands was £6,148, being an increase of £1,107 on that of the previous year, and an increase of £903 on the estimated revenue of 1917–18.

The expenditure for 1917–18 amounted to £5,774, being a decrease of £188 on the previous year's expenditure and a decrease of £407 on the estimated expenditure for the year. Thus the result of the year's transactions was a surplus of £374.

The Customs duties in 1917–18 amounted to £1,336, as compared with £1,297 during the previous year.

The total value of imports during 1917 was £13,988, and that of exports £8,817. The total trade of the Presidency thus amounted to £22,805, an increase of £5,847, as compared with the previous year.

The total tonnage of shipping inwards and outwards during the last two years was as follows:—

1916	12,866
1917	12,572

The exportation of cotton lint was 22,553 lbs., as compared with 32,974 lbs. the preceding year.

The year was not marked by any unusual agricultural activity, the energies of the people being largely devoted to the restoration of their dwellings and cultivations destroyed in the cyclone of October, 1916.

As in previous years, the bulk of the exports went to St. Thomas. The chief items of export were: Cattle, £3,655; cotton, £1,229; small stock, £1,216.

The amount of cotton exported has steadily declined since 1912. This decline is due to several causes, bad seasons, and changes in the method of purchasing peasant grown cotton being the chief.

Efforts were made to induce the people to pay more attention to the production of food crops. The dry summer was adverse to work of this nature, but later in the year it become apparent that the people were acting on the advice given them and planting food crops, notably sweet potatoes, in larger areas than before.

F. H. WATKINS,
Acting Colonial Secretary for the
Leeward Islands.

22nd November, 1918.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
958	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1916–1917
959	Cayman Islands	"
960	Bermuda	1916
961	Mauritius	"
962	Ashanti	1917
963	Falkland Islands	"
964	Seychelles	"
965	Weihaiwei	"
966	Fiji	"
967	Solomon Islands	1917–1918
968	Grenada	"
969	Turks and Caicos Islands	1917
970	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
971	Ceylon	"
972	Hong Kong	"
973	Zanzibar	"
974	St. Helena	"
975	Malta	1917–1918
976	British Guiana	1917
977	St. Vincent	1917–1918
978	Bahamas	"
979	Gambia	1917
980	Jamaica	1917–1918
981	Gibraltar	1917
982	Bermuda	"
983	Swaziland	1917–1918
984	Trinidad	1917
985	Mauritius	"
986	Cyprus	1917–1918
987	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
988	East Africa Protectorate	1916–1917
989	Barbados	1917–1918
990	Sierra Leone	1917
991	Straits Settlements	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement

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No. 1031.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1918-19.

(For Report for 1917-18 see No. 992.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
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No. 1031.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1918–19.*

1.—FINANCIAL.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1919, was £198,019, showing an increase of £5,972, in comparison with the revenue for the year 1917–18.

The expenditure for the year 1918–19, exclusive of Imperial grants, was £202,054, as against £198,157 for the previous year, showing an increase of £3,897.

The Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Montserrat showed an excess of assets over liabilities of £38,049 on the 31st March, 1919, made up as follows :—

	£
Antigua	8,124
St. Kitts-Nevis	11,299
Montserrat..	18,626
	£38,049

while the Presidencies of Dominica and the Virgin Islands showed an excess of liabilities over assets amounting to £3,656, made up as follows :—

	£
Dominica	3,108
Virgin Islands	548
	£3,656

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounts to £259,450.

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* Maps will be found in the Report for 1913–1914, No. 814: [Cd. 7622–32].

The following table shows the amount of the loans raised and the amounts standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds on the 31st March, 1917.

Presidency.	Total amount of loans raised.	Amount to credit of Sinking Fund.
	£	£
Antigua	122,891	54,754
St. Kitts-Nevis	67,250	28,613
Dominica	65,000	30,214
Montserrat	11,100	4,782
	£266,241	£118,363
Less amount repaid	6,791	—
Total	£259,450	£118,363

II.—IMPORTS, EXPORTS, AND SHIPPING.

IMPORTS.

The total value of imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1918, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £866,521, as against £869,746, in 1917, being a decrease of £3,225.

The value of the internal trade between the Presidencies amounted to £41,880, as against £32,033, being an increase of £9,847.

EXPORTS.

The total value of exports for the year 1918 was £912,877, as against £1,094,631 in 1917, being a decrease of £181,754.

Total Tonnage of Shipping Entered and Cleared.

	1917.	1918.
Antigua	600,205	401,506
St. Kitts-Nevis	598,317	462,083
Dominica	618,971	397,658
Montserrat	305,424	168,375
Virgin Islands	12,572	11,248

III.—EDUCATION.

The number of elementary schools in the Colony in the year under review was 98, distributed among the islands as follows :—

Antigua, 17 ; Barbuda, 1 ; St. Kitts, 18 ; Nevis, 10 ; Anguilla, 5 ; Dominica, 27 ; Montserrat, 13 ; Virgin Islands, 7 ; total, 98.

The numbers enrolled were 22,527, compared with 23,396 in 1917–18.

(641) Wt.32796/354. 1,250 & 90. 4.20. B.&F.,Ltd. G.11/14.

The total expenditure on the primary schools, exclusive of salaries of the departmental officers and of establishment charges, was £9,256, as against £9,591 in the previous year.

Although the difficulty of obtaining supplies on account of the War has considerably hampered the efforts of the teachers, marked improvement in discipline and organisation was evident in nearly all the schools.

IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

In the year 1918, 3,578 patients were admitted into the hospitals of the Colony, as against 6,174 in the previous year. 323 deaths occurred in the hospitals during the year.

There is a central lunatic asylum at Skerrets, Antigua. At the end of 1918 there were 164 inmates, while the average number was 160—72 males and 88 females.

There are two leper asylums in the Colony, one at Rat Island, Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles, in St. Kitts. In Antigua, 32 inmates remained in the institution at the end of the year, the average daily number being 19 males and 17 females. In St. Kitts the daily average number was 71—40 males and 31 females.

The number of depositors in the savings banks on the 31st March, 1919, was 2,688, and the amount of their credit was £63,647.

V.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The total number of persons in the Colony committed to prison during the year 1918 was 1,498 (961 males, 528 females, and 9 juveniles) as against 1,197 (674 males, 500 females and 23 juveniles) in 1917.

Prisoners sentenced to six months' imprisonment are sent to the Common Prison of the Leeward Islands, in Antigua, and immediately before the expiration of their sentences are returned to the Presidencies from which they were committed. In 1918, 20 prisoners were transferred to the Central Prison, 2 being sent from St. Kitts-Nevis, 11 from Dominica, 7 from Montserrat, the total daily average being 104—81 males and 23 females.

The daily average of the St. John's Training School in Antigua, to which boys are sent from all the Presidencies, and which was established under the provisions of the Leeward Islands Act, No. 4, of 1891, for the reformation, education, and training of boys under 18 years of age, was 72. The expenditure was £1,196 and the receipts £623, the cost per head to Antigua being £20. The health of the school was good. The boys were employed in agricultural and garden work in addition to the ordinary indoor work of the school. The grounds at Government House were kept in order by some of the younger boys, and a few of the older boys were apprenticed to managers of neighbouring estates and others, while still remaining inmates of the school.

Comparative table of criminal statistics for 1917 and 1918 :—

	1917.	1918.
Cases reported to the Police	5,947	9,926
Number of persons brought before the Magisterial Courts	18,847	16,650
Summary Convictions	8,390	8,122
Indictments in the Superior Courts	75	182
Convictions in the Superior Courts	60	129

VI.—POLICE.

The actual strength of the Force on the 31st March, was 5 officers and 154 non-commissioned officers and men, not including 1 officer and 17 men abroad on active service. The authorised establishment, as provided for in the Estimates, was 6 officers and 181 non-commissioned officers and men.

Fourteen men were enlisted to fill vacancies. Although all the vacancies were not filled, the inducement of the increased pay and allowances sanctioned in July, 1917, had the desired effect of improving recruiting.

During the year the discipline was very good, the total number of offences being four below the figures of the previous year.

Praedial larceny cases are, for the whole Colony, 236 above those of the previous year. The high prices of imported foodstuffs and the scarcity of ground provisions were incentives to praedial larceny.

The actual expenditure on the Force for the financial year was £13,451, as compared with £12,463 in the previous year, the increase being mainly attributable to an increase in strength owing to improved recruiting, and to the increased cost of clothing and other supplies.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Colony according to the census of 1911, was 127,193.

In Antigua, the estimated population on the 31st December, 1918, was 31,179. The number of marriages registered in the Presidency in 1918 was 93, as against 143 in 1917, while the births were 1,169, being 37·49 per 1,000. The legitimate births were 295, and the illegitimate births 874, the percentage being 25·24 and 74·76, respectively. The deaths during the year numbered 986, which gives a death-rate of 31·62 per 1,000. The deaths of children under one year, exclusive of still-births, were 200 or 20·28 per cent. of the total.

In respect to the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis, the number of inhabitants at the close of 1918 was estimated as follows :—St. Kitts, 27,047; Nevis, 14,254; Anguilla, 4,878; the birth-rates being St. Kitts, 34·602 per thousand, Nevis, 38·067 and Anguilla 33·178, while the death-rate for St. Kitts was 28·690 per thousand, for Nevis, 24·957 and for Anguilla, 17·695. The illegitimate birth-rate for St. Kitts was 25·067 per thousand, for Nevis, 23·135, and for Anguilla, 17·092, as against the legitimate birth-rate of ·538, 14·722, and 16·086 for St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla, respectively. The mortality of infants under one year of age is high, being 300·213, 283·609, and 133·333 per thousand of the total death-rate in St. Kitts-Nevis and Anguilla, respectively.

In Dominica the estimated population at the end of 1918 was 40,270. The births registered during the year numbered 1,516, as against 1,455 in 1917, giving a birth-rate of 37·67 per thousand. Illegitimate births exceeded the legitimate by 192 (854, as against 662), the percentage of legitimate and illegitimate births being respectively 44 and 56. The total number of registered deaths was 1,128, as against 1,222 in 1917, while the death-rate was 28·01 per thousand. Of the deaths in 1918, 502 were of children under 5 years of age, or 30·19 per cent. of the whole number.

The report on the vital statistics for Montserrat in 1918 shows a population of 11,264 on the 31st December, 1918, the births registered being 401, as against 422 in 1917, and showing a birth-rate of 35·85. The legitimate births were 156 and the illegitimate 245, the percentage being 38·90 and 61·09 respectively. The deaths registered were 214, as against 181 in 1917, and the death-rate was 19·13 per thousand, as against 16·22 per thousand in the previous year.

The general health of the Colony during the year was satisfactory, but no great advance will be made in health and sanitary conditions until the people, as a whole, are brought to realise the importance of cleanliness in elementary habits, and of ventilation and a well-regulated diet, especially for infants.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Presidencies.	Rainfall.*	Maximum Temperature.	Minimum Temperature.	Mean Temperature 9 a.m.	
				Dry.	Wet.
	Inches.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.
Antigua ..	39·89	92	64	80·7	74·7
St. Kitts ..	49·35	91	65	80·5	74·2
Dominica ..	71·64	—	—	—	—
Montserrat ..	45·59	—	—	—	—
Virgin Islands	52·54	—	—	—	—

* Taken at the Botanical Stations.

ANTIGUA.

The average rainfall was taken at 70 stations. The average annual rainfall for 45 years is 44·88 inches, and the rainfall for 1918 was 4·99 inches below the average. The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 2·16 inches, on April 4th.

ST. KITTS.

The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 5·70 inches on November 9th. The rainfall taken at 30 stations in 1918 was 52·44 inches.

DOMINICA.

The greatest rainfall in a month was 31·80 inches at Long Ditton, in June. The mean rainfall at different stations was :—

15 Leeward Stations	78·85 inches
2 Windward Stations	134·33 ,,
2 Inland Stations	160·73 ,,
8 Lasoye Stations	118·56 ,,

MONTSERRAT.

The average rainfall for the island in 1918 on 20 recording stations was 45·59 inches, compared with an average of 57·45 inches as the average for the previous 24 years. The minimum precipitation in 1918 was 30·99 inches and the maximum 57·70 inches.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The rainfall for 1918, was 52·54 inches. Rain fell in measureable quantity on 190 days.

Cyclonic disturbances passed Tortola on August 23 and the 9th–10th September. There were slight earthquake shocks on February 2nd, October 11th, 14th, and 23rd.

IX.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and the Quebec Steamship Company. The mails are conveyed between Tortola and St. Thomas, and between Tortola and Virgin Gorda by a sloop belonging to the Government, and by private boats, as follows :—

From Tortola to St. Thomas about four times a week, and

From Tortola to Virgin Gorda about six times a month.

There is a fortnightly mail service by sailing boat between St. Kitts and Anguilla. A sloop is also subsidised by the Government of Montserrat to take mails and passengers between that Presidency, Antigua, and St. Kitts.

Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other, the other West Indian Colonies, Europe, and America by the cables of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

There is no communication by telegraph with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands. Messages can, however, be sent to Montserrat by flashlight via Antigua. St. Kitts is in heliograph communication with Nevis.

The revenue and expenditure account of the Post Offices of the different Presidencies of the Colony showed a profit of £5,634.

ANTIGUA.

The revenue for the year 1918–19 reached £63,528, exceeding the estimates by £1,283, as against £66,768 in the previous year, a decrease of £3,240, due principally to the falling off of the export duty in consequence of the short crop of the staple industry. The average revenue of the Presidency for the quinquennial period had been £57,592, as compared with £51,638 for the five years antecedent to 1913–14.

The revenue derived from customs amounted to £38,496, as against £41,724 in the previous year, the decrease being attributable to the loss in export duty caused by a short crop, and in some degree to the restrictions placed on the sale of alcoholic liquors after the disturbances in March.

The expenditure of the year, estimated at £61,504, reached £66,188, or more than £1,790 in 1917–18 and £10,087 in 1916–17 respectively. This comparatively large increase is due to the high prices of food and other articles used for the Government institutions and works of public utility.

Value of the Principal Exports in 1917–1918.

	1917.	1918.
	£	£
Vacuum Pan Sugar	255,607	175,560
Muscovado Sugar	65,140	8,060
Molasses and Syrup	31,094	33,582
Cotton	5,141	9,938
Onions	3,140	705
Hides and Skins	1,685	938
Preserved Fruits	1,890	3,672
Lime Juice	1,012	1,249
Green Limes	653	113

In Antigua the year 1918, was, from an agricultural point of view, a gloomy one. The sugar crops, generally speaking, were at least 33 per cent. below normal owing to the drought which prevailed. In the northern part of the island the rainfall averaged only 30 inches, while the centre and the south, with 35 and 40 inches respectively, were far below the average. Fortunately, on account of the high prices for sugar, fair profits were made on most of the estates.

Early in 1918 the owners of the sugar estates determined to enforce on the cane cutters payment by weight instead of payment by the row. The system of payment by weight had been accepted on some estates, chiefly those connected with the factories, but was regarded with suspicion by the labourers on many estates, especially during a bad crop when the tonnage or weight system would be to the advantage of the planter, although, to an impartial observer, the only equitable method of computing wages was by weight. Both owners and labourers remained obdurate for several weeks; strikes and intimidation ensued and much loss was caused by cane fires. The misunderstanding and unrest terminated in a riot which had to be quelled by force of arms and which caused much expense and anxiety to the Government. Shortly before the final disturbance a Commission had been appointed to enquire what would be a fair wage to labourers employed in cutting canes in Antigua during the 1918 crop. The Commission found that the only fair and equitable way of computing wages for cane cutters was by weight, provided their interests were adequately safeguarded, but felt compelled by circumstances to recommend for the 1918 crop, payment by the row. The recommendations of the Commission were speedily adopted by both planters and labourers, with the result that the crop was taken off without interruption, while the firm attitude of the Government prevented further lawlessness and intimidation.

In the fourteenth annual report of the Antigua Sugar Factory, it is shown that the number of tons made was 7,316, as against 11,705 in 1917, and that the total proceeds from sugar and molasses were £176,835, as against £252,617 in 1917. The total expenditure was £124,834, a surplus of £51,997 being thus left for distribution.

Bendal's Sugar Factory manufactured 1,544 tons of sugar, equal to one ton of sugar from 9·98 tons of canes. The factory has commenced to lease lands from adjacent estates and to raise cane upon these lands for supply to the factory, and it is confidently expected that good profits will accrue from this venture.

The area planted in cotton during the year 1918–19 shows a marked increase in acreage over that of the previous year, being 872 acres in Antigua and 105 acres in Barbuda—or 977 acres throughout the Presidency. About nine-tenths of the area planted in cotton in Barbuda was under Government supervision. The total quantity gathered was 79,005 lb., of which 9,207 lb. came from Barbuda. The returns were decidedly poor, being approximately only 80 lb. of lint per acre in Antigua, as compared with 103 lb. per acre in the previous year. The principal cause of this unsatisfactory yield was attributable to severe (insect) attacks of caterpillars and cotton stainers. These attacks were met by the application of insecticides, but considerable difficulty was experienced at a critical stage in obtaining an adequate supply of Paris green.

Early in 1919 an Ordinance was passed empowering the Government to destroy trees and plants acting as hosts for cotton stainers. Under the provisions of this Ordinance the Agricultural Department has succeeded by the destruction of wild cotton plants, mahoe, and silk cotton trees, in practically freeing the St. John's and Five Islands Districts from these pests.

Owing to the late arrival of the annual supply of seed, a considerable decrease in the area planted in onions took place, the number of crates shipped being only 577, as compared with 1,100 in 1917. Experiments in storing and preserving in quicklime the seeds which arrived too late for the crop have proved an unqualified success, for it has been demonstrated that onion seed can be kept for at least nine months in tropical countries.

The quantity of corn (maize) grown in Antigua during the year was considerably in excess of the previous year, which was due to the increased price obtainable for the grain. Most of the maize grown on estates is planted on the banks of cane-fields as a catch crop. The cob may be utilized mixed with molasses, beans, or peas as a nutritive feed for horses and cattle. Improvements were introduced in the plant at the Government Granary.

The work of the Cotton and Onion Growers Associations continued to be of great value to small owners both from an educational as from an industrial point of view, for these Associations place within ready reach of the peasants seeds of the best type available and guarantee an equitable price for their produce.

Two Fordson tractors and two Ford trucks are at present in the island, and it is probable that the number of both will, in a very short time, be augmented. The cost of a Fordson tractor in Antigua is approximately £240, while that of a Ford truck with trailer is £200.

The Sawcolts Land Settlement Scheme initiated in 1917 has proved a pronounced success. The estate is situated in the southern part of the island at a distance of about 7 miles from St. John's. Since the inception of the scheme, about 50 persons have taken up, approximately, 66 acres, the value of which is £470. Practically the whole of the cultivable land has been taken up. The plots, which are under the general supervision of the Agricultural Department, are, on the whole, kept clean and tidy and are planted in useful crops which are sold locally.

An interesting experiment of private land settlement has been recently made at Tomlinson's Estate under practically the same conditions as those on which the Sawcolts Scheme is conducted. The plots, which are within easy distance of Gunthorpe's Factory in this instance, have been mostly planted in sugar cane and the produce is sold to the factory. It is more than probable, if the small growers are given opportunities of acquiring plots of land on reasonable terms, that the solution of the problem how to stem the ever-increasing flow of emigration of the labouring population, which is a serious menace to the agricultural future of the Presidency, will be found.

A scientific expedition from the State University of Iowa visited Antigua in July and the members were provided with quarters at the Dockyard, English Harbour. Geological specimens were collected, and reports will be made on the reef fishes of Antigua.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

The revenue for 1918 was £64,491, an increase of £4,270 on that for 1917–18. The actual revenue exceeded that estimated by £7,883, due to increase in *ad valorem* duty subsequent to the framing of the Estimates.

The expenditure for 1918–19 was £64,080, an increase by £2,749 on that for 1917–18, and of £8,395 over the estimated expenditure.

The value of imports rose from £296,594 during 1917, to £306,309 for the year under review. The value of exports fell from £372,572 in 1917–18, to £344,633 during 1918–19.

Agricultural conditions in the Presidency were, on the whole, satisfactory during the year 1918.

The low rainfall of the previous year was responsible for the short sugar crop, only 9,105 tons of sugar being exported in 1918, as against 16,048 tons in 1917.

Of this total, 7,220 tons were produced by the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory, Ltd. The high prices obtained compensated, in some measure, for this shortage, which otherwise would have seriously affected the sugar planters owing to the greatly increased cost of production.

The export of Sea Island cotton (579,569 lb. lint) was a fair average return and, in addition, the high prices paid by the Imperial Government made this crop an extremely valuable one for the Presidency.

The cultivation of coconuts in Nevis is being extended, and this industry seems likely, in the near future, to be one of some importance. The price obtained for the nuts, both locally and abroad, has been high.

The cultivation of native-grown food-stuffs was considerably increased, owing to the difficulty in obtaining imported articles such as flour and cornmeal. The owners of estates and small growers are to be commended for responding so readily to the request of the Government in this connection.

The total consumption of rum, including both imported and locally distilled, fell from 24,738 proof gallons in 1917 to 23,793 proof gallons in 1918, or a fall in consumption of 945 proof gallons.

There was no epidemic or sickness among animals to call for any special attention, and high prices were obtained for working and beef cattle in the local market.

Labour conditions were fairly satisfactory. The wages paid to agricultural labourers were increased proportionately with the advanced price of the staple products, sugar and cotton.

DOMINICA.

The revenue for the year 1918–19 amounted to £47,025 against an estimate of £50,020, and the expenditure was £52,452 against an estimate of £59,254. The expenditure was in excess of revenue by £5,427, but, as the year opened with a surplus balance of £2,310, it therefore closed with a net deficit of £3,117.

The receipts under the following heads of revenue fell short of the estimates by the sums indicated, viz. :—

Import duties	£4,132
Export duties	618
Port and Harbour dues	1,100

An excess was realised by the Post Office of £1,330, due to the additional postage of ½*d*. on letters imposed as a War measure, and the sale to the trade of the special War Tax stamps issued by the Department.

The trade of the year was as follows :—

Imports £205,216, exports £209,305, as against £232,833 and £223,178 respectively, in the previous year.

On the whole, weather conditions were favourable to the lime industry of the Presidency. On the Leeward coast the rainfall was moderate and well distributed, while on the Windward coast and in the inland districts the rainfall was below the average, a condition which is held to be a good augury for large crops in the ensuing months. Although, however, weather conditions were favourable, the year, from other points of view, was a bad one for the lime industry. Short crops, an embargo on the importation of citrus products into the United States and other difficulties caused by the War, created a situation of extreme anxiety to the planter. While other West Indian Islands in which sugar and cotton are the main products have benefited by high prices during recent years, Dominica, on the contrary, has suffered in many ways. The embargo on citrus products, in spite of strong representations, continued from April until September.

The lime crop for 1918 amounted to 318,074 barrels of fruit. This is the smallest crop recorded in a period of nine years, and showed a decrease of no fewer than 70,000 barrels as compared with that of the previous year.

The following table shows the disposal of the crop under the different heads :—

Product.	Approximate Percentage.
Concentrated juice	70
Raw juice	25
Citrate of lime	3
Fresh limes	2

Comparison with the figures of last year shows that the percentage shipped as concentrated juice rose from 56 to 70 per cent., this increase being largely due to the embargo on fresh limes, while the proportion of raw juice manufactured fell from 26 to 25 per cent. The effect of the embargo is clearly seen in the fresh lime trade which declined from 10 to 2 per cent.

The following statement will give the comparative values of the export of the different kinds of lime products in 1917 and 1918.

Products.	1917.	1918.
Concentrated juice	£56,366	£59,596
Raw juice	65,546	74,747
Raw juice cordial	103	—
Green limes	49,734	11,904
Pickled limes..	350	8
Citrate of limes	6,669	2,744
Essential oil of limes ..	17,900	5,856
Otto of limes	8,231	8,671
	£204,899	£163,526

Compared with the values of 1917, there was a total decrease in value of £41,373 in 1918.

There appears to be no increase of interest in cocoa cultivation, and, apparently, the planting of new areas is not contemplated by either planters or peasants. Without development work the output must inevitably decline in the course of years. The value of the export of cocoa during the last five years has been

Year.	Value.
1914	£8,874
1915	10,810
1916	5,707
1917	3,169
1918	4,239

The shipments of coconuts continue to decline, and have fallen since 1914 from 554,549 to 89,676 in 1918.

In 1918 the values of the minor products were as follows :—

Products.	Values.
Oranges	£809
Orange oil	49
Bay leaves	33
Bay oil	770
Coffee	81
Honey	405
Vanilla	159
Hardwood	1,712
Hoops	500

MONTSERRAT.

The estimated revenue was £11,049, and the expenditure £13,209, a deficit of £2,160 being thus anticipated. At the end of the financial year, however, the revenue amounted to £17,671 and the actual expenditure to £12,893, there being thus an increase of £6,622 in revenue above that estimated and a decrease of £316 in the estimated expenditure. The excess of revenue over expenditure for the financial year was therefore £4,778.

The revenue exceeded that of all previous years, the next largest being that of £13,422 in 1916–17.

The surplus of assets at the close of the financial year was £18,626 as against £13,848 on the 31st March, 1918, and £14,449 at the close of the War.

The total values of imports and exports were £70,843 and £87,012, as compared with £57,632 and £63,982 in the previous year. The increase in the value of exports was largely due to the prices given by the British Government for the shipments of Sea Island cotton.

Speaking generally, the agricultural situation in Montserrat remained in 1918, in a satisfactory condition. Progress and development are to be recorded in connection with the staple crop, cotton, the exports of which including 438,222 lb. of lint constituting the largest output known. The area planted in cotton was 3,167 acres, so that the average yield was 136 lb. of lint as compared with an average of 146 lb. per acre for the previous 15 years. The relatively poor average yield was attributed to the low rainfall during the critical months of the development of the crop. It is interesting to note the extent to which peasant growers are now directly interested in the cotton crop. It is estimated from available data that of the 3,167 acres planted in cotton, 800 acres were grown by peasants on their own land or on lands leased by them, while about 950 acres were planted on estates on the share system, which leaves only 1,400 acres cultivated by estates directly with paid labour.

An interesting feature in connection with the cotton industry was the initiation of a campaign for the destruction of the important host plants of the cotton stainer, namely, the silk cotton and mahoe trees, and the results are being watched with interest. The present annual monetary loss to the island through the ravages of the cotton stainer is estimated at £1,000 to £2,000.

It is regrettable that there is no general improvement in the outlook for lime cultivation in the island. The production of raw juice was, approximately, 142,277 gallons compared with an annual average of 147,587 gallons for the previous five years and 222,025 gallons for the period, 1909 to 1912 inclusive.

So long as the selling price of cotton remains high, there is little prospect of any marked improvement in the development and cultivation of other industries. War conditions gave the sugar industry a momentary stimulus a few years ago, but the exports in 1918 were only 41 tons, as compared with 417 tons in 1916, while the exports of papain also fell to 722 as against 1,877 lb. in the previous year.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The revenue of the Virgin Islands was £5,070, being a decrease of £1,078 on that of the previous year, and a decrease of £3,495 on the estimated revenue of 1918–19.

The expenditure for 1918–19 amounted to £6,227, being an increase of £453 on the previous year's expenditure and a decrease of £2,968 on the estimated expenditure for the year. The result of the year's transactions was a deficit of £548.

The customs duties in 1918–19 amounted to £1,751, as compared with £1,336 during the previous year.

The total value of imports during 1918 was £17,160 and that of exports £9,046. The total trade of the Presidency thus amounted to £26,206, an increase of £3,401, as compared with the previous year.

The total tonnage of shipping inwards and outwards during the last two years was as follows :—

1917	12,572
1918	11,248

The total weight of seed cotton purchased at the Government Cotton Factory was 107,689 lb., which, on being ginned, yielded 28,446 lb. of clean lint, 26·5 per cent., a higher yield than in most of the preceding years. The cotton was purchased on the profit-sharing basis. Under this system a first payment, varying according to the quality of the cotton, is made at the time the seed cotton is sold. The cotton, when bought, is dealt with in the usual manner, and when accounts are received the credit balance sales are divided. Seventy-five per cent. is returned to the growers in the form of a bonus or deferred payment, and 25 per cent. is retained by the Government. There can be no doubt as to the fairness of this method of working the industry: the only question is whether it is suitable to a peasantry such as is to be found in the Presidency.

The highest rate of the first payment was 7*d.* per lb. in 1918.

The value of cotton shipped from the Government Ginnery during the last five years has been:—

Year	Value.
1914	£2,191
1915	1,941
1916	1,406
1917	1,677
1918	3,875

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The decrease in tonnage owing to the destruction of mercantile vessels by German submarines and the necessity for providing for the transport of troops to Europe, sensibly decreased the number of steamers plying between the United States and the West Indies and brought about a shortage of imported foodstuffs consumed by the people of the Colony. Towards the end of 1917 the large shipment of food supplies to Europe from the United States rendered it imperative for the American Government to stop the free exportation of flour, cornmeal, and other articles of food to the West Indies. Representations having been made to the Government at Washington indicating the distress which would ensue were the shipment of these commodities prohibited, the United States consented to ration each of the West Indian Islands. Regulations were accordingly made whereby orders for food products were to be passed by local boards and then approved by a committee in New York. Food Control Committees were appointed in each of the Presidencies. The system worked satisfactorily, imported food supplies sufficient for normal requirements being assured.

The sugar manufactured at the central factories was sold to the British Government for £25 17*s.* 6*d.* a ton, while, as in 1917, all the Sea Island cotton produced in the Colony was acquired by the War Office for aeronautical purposes. The cotton offered was bought, baled, and delivered at the ports of shipment, the growers being thus relieved of anxiety as to difficulties in providing tonnage. The scale of payment was the same as in the previous year, but the advances on unstained cotton were increased to three shillings per lb., from which amount the local export duty was deducted.

During the War four contingents of officers and men, attached to the British West Indies Regiment and numbering 6 officers and 341 men were sent to the front.

The Presidencies of the Colony made the following contributions to the various War funds of the Allies :—

Antigua	£4,788	(1)
St. Christopher-Nevis	11,666	(2)
Dominica	18,347	(3)
Montserrat	2,898	(4)
Virgin Islands	30	

The amounts include (1) £1,000, (2) £7,000, (3) £15,000, and (4) £1,000 given as Government grants.

In spite of labour troubles the people of the Colony remained loyal to the Crown, and, on the fourth anniversary of the entrance of the Empire into the War, at patriotic meetings attended by thousands of every class and colour, resolutions were enthusiastically passed expressing the unswerving determination to do what lay in the power of these islands to aid in bringing the great conflict to a victorious issue. The news of the signing of the Armistice on the 11th November was the signal for a spontaneous and universal outburst of loyalty.

F. H. WATKINS,
Acting Colonial Secretary for the
Leeward Islands.

5th December, 1919.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
1000	Zanzibar	1918
1001	Hong Kong	"
1002	Somaliland	1917–1918
1003	Cayman Islands	"
1004	Malta	1918–1919
1005	Seychelles	1918
1006	Fiji	"
1007	Ceylon	"
1008	Nigeria	1917
1009	Turks and Caicos Islands	1918
1010	St. Helena	"
1011	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
1012	Ashanti	"
1013	East Africa Protectorate	1917–1918
1014	British Guiana	1918
1015	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1918–1919
1016	Basutoland	"
1017	Falkland Islands	1918
1018	Trinidad	"
1019	Bermuda	"
1020	Swaziland	1917–1918
1021	Somaliland	1918–1919
1022	Gibraltar	1918
1023	Grenada	1918–1919
1024	Jamaica	"
1025	Cyprus	"
1026	British Honduras	1918
1027	British Solomon Islands	1918–1919
1028	Straits Settlements	1918
1029	Gold Coast	"
1030	Nigeria	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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No. 1074.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1919-20.

(For Report for 1918–19 see No. 1031.)

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No. 1074.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1919-20.*

THE Leeward Islands form the most northerly group of the "Lesser Antilles" in the West Indies, and lie between 18°27 and 15°10. The Colony is now a federation, comprising the five "Presidencies,"—formerly separate colonies—of Antigua, St. Christopher (usually called St. Kitts), with which Presidency is included Nevis, Dominica, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands.

2. The governments of the first three Presidencies are each administered by an "Administrator," while the officers in charge of the two smaller Presidencies of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands have the title of "Commissioner." All the Presidencies form together one colony under a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who is resident at Antigua, the headquarters of the Colony. When the Governor is visiting other Presidencies the Colonial Secretary assumes, under a dormant commission, the office of Administrator of Antigua; and similarly when the Governor is away from the Colony the Colonial Secretary assumes the administration of the government of the whole Colony.

3. *Councils.*—There is an Executive and a Legislative Council for the colony, and also separate Executive and Legislative Councils for each of the four larger Presidencies, the Virgin Islands having only an Executive Council.

The Legislative Council of the Colony consists of eight official and eight elective members, three of the elective members being chosen by the unofficial members of the Antigua Legislative Council, three by those of St. Kitts, and two by those of Dominica.

I. FINANCIAL

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year ended March 31st, 1920, was £240,476, showing an increase of £42,457, in comparison with the revenue for the year 1918–19.

The expenditure for the year 1919–20, exclusive of Imperial grants, was £220,578, as against £202,054 for the previous year, showing an increase of £18,524.

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* Maps will be found in the Report for 1913–14, No. 814 [Cd. 7622–32].

The excess of assets over liabilities of £54,292, on March 31st, 1920, was made up as follows :—

Antigua	£7,454
St. Kitts-Nevis	17,813
Montserrat	21,947
Dominica	894
Virgin Islands	6,184
	£54,292

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounts to £251,250.

The following table shows the amount of the loans raised and the amounts standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds on March 31st, 1920.

Presidency.	Total amount of loans raised.	Amount to credit of Sinking Fund.
Antigua	£115,900	£57,641
St. Kitts-Nevis	59,250	26,248
Dominica	65,000	32,128
Montserrat	11,100	5,372
	£251,250	£121,389

II. IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND SHIPPING.

IMPORTS.

The total value of the imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1919, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £931,780, as against £866,521 in 1918, being an increase of £65,259.

The value of the internal trade between the Presidencies amounted to £42,832, as against £41,880, being an increase of £952.

EXPORTS.

The total value of exports for the year 1919 was £1,172,775, as against £912,877 in 1918, being an increase of £259,898.

Total Tonnage of Shipping Entered and Cleared.

	1918.	1919.
Antigua	401,506	538,983
St. Kitts-Nevis	462,083	578,890
Dominica	397,658	503,509
Montserrat	168,375	302,629
Virgin Islands	11,248	13,059

III. LEGISLATION.

Seventeen Federal Acts and sixty-eight Presidential Ordinances were passed during the year.

(3122) Wt.6104/162 625 6/21 Harrow G.75/2.

In No. 8 of the Federal Acts power is taken to expel undesirable persons from the Colony, and No. 9 prohibits the publication and importation of seditious newspapers, books, and documents.

IV. EDUCATION.

(A) Elementary.

The number of Elementary Schools in the Colony in the year under review was 98, distributed as follows :—

Presidency.	Government.	State-aided.	Total.
1. Antigua .. .. .. Barbuda	17	1	18
2. St. Kitts	16	2	18
Nevis	10	—	10
Anguilla	5	—	5
3. Dominica	23	3	26
4. Montserrat	—	13	13
5. Virgin Islands	—	7	7
		Total	97

The numbers enrolled and in average attendance were :—

Whole Colony.		1918–19.		1919–20.
Number on roll..	..	22,527	..	23,396
Average attendance	..	10,607	..	10,088

The total expenditure in the Primary Schools, exclusive of salaries of the departmental officers and of establishment charges, was £10,188 0s. 2½d., against £9,256 in the previous year.

(B) Secondary.

The following is a list of the Secondary Schools of the Colony, with their respective grants :—

School.	Grants.		
1. Antigua Grammar School	£444	0	0
2. Antigua Girls' High School ..	150	0	0
3. Dominica Grammar School ..	446	0	0
4. St. Kitts-Nevis Grammar School..	320	0	0
5. Girls' High School, St. Kitts ..	75	0	0
6. Excelsior School, Nevis	50	0	0
7. Thomas Oliver Memorial School, Antigua	40	0	0
8. Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, Antigua	180	0	0

The Primary Schools in Antigua, Dominica and St. Kitts-Nevis are all under direct Government control, and are managed by a Sub-inspector of Schools in each Presidency.

In Montserrat and the Virgin Islands they are, with one exception, denominational, and are managed by the clergy of the various denominations. The Schools are examined annually by the Inspector of Schools, and grants are awarded on the result of this examination. The pupil teacher system is in vogue, the period of service being three years. Studentships are awarded to specially selected candidates at the end of their pupil teachership. Those for girls are held at the Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, Antigua, and those for boys at the Rawle Training Institute, Codrington College, Barbados, for two years to complete their training as assistant teachers.

V. GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

In the year 1919, 3,688 patients were admitted into the hospitals of the Colony, as against 3,578 in the previous year; 335 deaths occurred in the hospitals during the year.

There is a Central Lunatic Asylum at Skerretts, Antigua. At the end of 1919 there were 149 inmates, while the average number was 158 (64 males and 94 females).

There are two Leper Asylums in the Colony, one at Rat Island, Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles, St. Kitts. In Antigua, 30 inmates remained in the Institution at the end of the year, the average daily number being 14 males and 16 females. In St. Kitts the daily average number was 73—42 males and 31 females.

The number of depositors in the Savings Banks on March 31st, 1920, was 2,501, and the amount to their credit was £56,839 6s. 4d.

VI. JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The total number of persons in the Colony committed to prison during the year 1919 was 1,030 (631 males, 376 females and 23 juveniles), as against 1,498 (961 males, 528 females and 9 juveniles) in 1918.

Prisoners sentenced to six months' imprisonment are sent to the Common Prison of the Leeward Islands, in Antigua, and immediately before the expiration of their sentences are returned to the Presidencies from which they were committed. In 1919, 33 prisoners were transferred to the Central Prison, 20 being sent from St. Kitts-Nevis, 7 from Dominica, and 6 from Montserrat.

The daily average of the St. John's Training School in Antigua, to which boys are sent from all the Presidencies, and which was established under the provisions of the Leeward Islands Act, No. 4, of 1891, for the reformation, education, and training of boys under 18 years of age, was 69. The expenditure was £1,141, and the receipts £603, the cost per head to Antigua being £19 7s. 2d. The health of the school was good. The boys were employed in agricultural and garden work in addition to the ordinary indoor work of the school.

Comparative table of criminal statistics for 1918 and 1919 :—

	1918.		1919.
Cases reported to the Police	9,926	..	8,367
Number of persons brought before the Magisterial Courts	16,650	..	17,624
Summary Convictions ..	8,122	..	9,301
Indictments in the Superior Courts	182	..	103
Convictions in the Superior Courts	129	..	64

VII. POLICE.

The actual strength of the Force on March 31st, 1920, was 6 officers and 144 non-commissioned officers and men, whereas the authorised establishment, as provided for in the Estimates, was 6 officers and 182 non-commissioned officers and men. The Force was, therefore, 38 men under strength on March 31st, 1920.

One officer and 17 non-commissioned officers and men who had been serving abroad with the British West Indies Regiment returned to the Colony at the end of 1919; of these 9 non-commissioned officers resigned from the Force on their return, and of the 8 men who continued their service 5 have since resigned.

Seventeen men were enlisted during the year, being an increase of three over the figures for 1918–19. Recruiting has been most disappointing in view of the fact that the pay of the non-commissioned officers and men has been increased by 25 per cent. since January 1st, 1920.

The actual expenditure on the Leeward Islands Police Force for the year ended March 31st, 1920, was £14,585 5s. 2d., as compared with £13,451 2s. 10d. for the previous year, the increase of £1,134 2s. 4d. being mainly attributable to the increases in pay granted from January 1st, 1920, and to the increased cost of clothing and other supplies.

VIII. VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Colony, according to the Census of 1911, was 127,193.

In Antigua, the estimated population on December 31st, 1919, was 31,063. The number of marriages registered in the Presidency in 1919 was 100, as against 93 in 1918, while the births were 1,062, being 34·1 per thousand. The legitimate births were 262 and the illegitimate births 800, the percentage being 24·7 and 75·3 respectively. The deaths during the year numbered 935, which gives a death-rate of 26·9 per thousand. The deaths of children under one year, exclusive of still-births, were 185, or 22·2 per cent. of the total.

In respect of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis the number of inhabitants at the close of 1919 was estimated as follows :—

St. Kitts, 27,193; Nevis, 14,390; Anguilla, 4,988; the birth-rates being St. Kitts 30·6 per thousand, Nevis 30·0 and Anguilla 36·5, while the death-rate for St. Kitts was 25·2 per thousand, for Nevis 20·4, and for Anguilla 13·9. The illegitimate birth-rate for St. Kitts was 22·2 per thousand, for Nevis 17·5, and for Anguilla 18·6, as against the legitimate birth-rate of 8·4 and 12·4 and 15·6 for St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla respectively. The mortality of infants under one year of age is high, being 253·0, 272·3, and 148·6 per thousand of the total death-rate in St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla respectively.

In Dominica the estimated population at the end of 1919 was 40,315. The births registered during the year numbered 1,532, as against 1,516 in 1918, giving a birth-rate of 37·9 per thousand. Illegitimate births exceeded the legitimate by 208 (870, as against 662), the percentage of the legitimate and illegitimate births being respectively 43·2 and 56·8. The total number of registered deaths was 1,070, as against 1,128 in 1918, while the death-rate was 26·4 per thousand. Of the deaths in 1919, 373 were of children under 5 years of age, or 28·7 per cent. of the whole number.

The report on the vital statistics for Montserrat in 1919 shows a population of 11,168 on December 31st, 1919, the births registered being 387, as against 401 in 1918, and showing a birth-rate of 34·3. The legitimate births were 146 and the illegitimate 241, the percentage being 37·7 and 62·3 respectively. The deaths registered were 197, as against 214 in 1918, and the death-rate was 17·5 per thousand, as against 19·1 per thousand in the previous year.

The deaths of children under one year of age were 41, or 20·8 per cent. of the total, as against 22·9 in 1918.

The general health of the Colony during the year was satisfactory, but no great advance in health and sanitary conditions will be made until the people as a whole are brought to realise the importance of cleanliness in elementary habits, and of ventilation and a well regulated diet, especially for infants.

IX. METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Presidency.	*Rainfall.	Maximum Temperature.	Minimum Temperature.	Mean Temperature, 9 a.m.	
				Dry.	Wet.
	In.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.
Antigua	49·50	91	59	80·7	75·2
St. Kitts	53·11	91	63	80·6	74·4
Dominica	68·03	—	—	—	—
Montserrat.. ..	56·85	—	—	—	—
Virgin Islands ..	—	—	—	—	—

* Taken at the Botanical Station.

ANTIGUA.

The average rainfall was taken at 70 stations. The average annual rainfall for 46 years is 44·99 in., and the rainfall for 1919 was 4·57 in. above the average.

The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 4·41 in. on November 11th; the lowest temperature for the year was also registered on that day.

ST. KITTS.

The mean rainfall for 29 stations in 1919 was 62·84 in.

DOMINICA.

The greatest rainfall in a month was 39·57 in. at Bantridge in May. The mean rainfall at different stations was:—

13 Leeward Stations	84·36 in.
3 Windward Stations	134·45 ,,
4 Inland Stations	193·59 ,,
2 Lasoye Stations	114·43 ,,

X. POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

British and Foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and the Quebec Steamship Company. The mails are conveyed between Tortola and St. Thomas, and between Tortola and Virgin Gorda by a launch belonging to the Government, and by private boats, as follows:—

From Tortola to St. Thomas about four times a week, and

From Tortola to Virgin Gorda about six times a month.

There is a fortnightly mail service by sailing boat between St. Kitts and Anguilla. A sloop is also subsidised by the Government of Montserrat to take mails and passengers between that Presidency, Antigua, and St. Kitts.

Antigua, St. Kitts and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other, the other West Indian Colonies, Europe and America by the cables of the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company.

There is no communication by telegraph with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands. Messages can, however, be sent to Montserrat, by flashlight *via* Antigua and to the Virgin Islands by cable *via* St. Thomas. St. Kitts is in heliographic communication with Nevis.

The revenue and expenditure account of the Post Offices of the different Presidencies of the Colony showed a profit of £8,584 7s. 2d.

The Cash on Delivery system between the United Kingdom and the Leeward Islands was revised on January 1st, 1920, and is proving very useful.

XI. CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

His Excellency Sir E. M. Merewether, K C.M.G., K.C.V.O., assumed the government on March 7th, 1919, and in the same month the Honourable T. A. V. Best, C.M.G., C.B.E., Colonial Secretary, who had been Acting Governor for the past three years, was appointed Colonial Secretary, Trinidad.

The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel T. R. St.-Johnston was appointed Colonial Secretary on December 7th, 1919, but did not assume duty until June 12th, 1920.

His Honour W. P. Michelin was appointed Second Puisne Judge on November 26th, 1919.

His Honour A. W. Mahaffy, O.B.E., Administrator of Dominica, died on October 27th and was succeeded by R. Walter, Esq., C.M.G.

His Honour Major H. W. Peebles, D.S.O., was appointed Commissioner of the Virgin Islands on July 11th, 1919.

ANTIGUA.

The revenue for the year 1919–20 reached £70,158, exceeding the estimates by £6,289, as against £63,528 in the previous year, an increase of £6,630, due principally to an increase in the export duty in consequence of an increased crop of the staple industry. The average revenue of the Presidency for the quinquennial period has been £63,182, as compared with £52,768 for the five years antecedent to 1915–16.

The revenue derived from Customs amounted to £43,801, as against £38,496 in the previous year, the increase being attributable to the gain in export duty caused by a better crop, and also to a newly revised scale of duty on sugar and other agricultural products.

The expenditure of the year, estimated at £63,761, reached £70,829, or more than £4,641 in 1918–19, and £18,586 on the average expenditure for the quinquennial period antecedent to the War. This comparatively large increase is due to the high prices of food and other articles used for the Government institutions and works of public utility, and also to the sharp rise in rates of exchange between the United States of America which occurred in the latter part of the year.

Value of the Principal Exports in 1918 and 1919.

	1918.	1919.
Vacuum Pan Sugar	£175,580	£261,648
Muscovado Sugar	8,060	39,176
Molasses and Syrup	33,582	13,738
Cotton	9,938	16,362
Onions	705	377
Hides and Skins	938	1,782
Preserved Fruits	3,672	2,292
Lime Juice	1,249	1,079
Green Limes	113	246
Tamarinds	—	2,264

In Antigua the year 1919 was, from an agricultural point of view, a more satisfactory one than the preceding one, although the rainfall—during the growing season of the canes—was below normal. The average rainfall for the calendar year was 49·56 in., or 9·67 in. higher than that of 1918. More satisfactory arrangements existed with regard to the labour supply—although the latter was limited, and in many instances insufficient.

In the fifteenth annual report of the Antigua Sugar Factory it is shown that the number of tons made was 9,739, as against 7,316 in 1918, and that the total proceeds from sugar and molasses were £252,460, as against £176,835 in 1918. The total expenditure was £124,834, a surplus of £66,003 being thus left for distribution.

Bendals Sugar Factory manufactured 1,500 tons of sugar, equal to one ton of sugar from 9·98 tons of cane. The factory has commenced to lease lands from adjacent estates, and to raise cane upon these lands for supply to the factory, and it is confidently expected that good profits will accrue from this venture.

The area planted in cotton during the year 1919-20 shows a slight decrease in acreage over that of the previous year, being 700 in Antigua and 90 acres in Barbuda—or 790 acres throughout the Presidency. About nine-tenths of the area planted in cotton in Barbuda was under Government supervision. The total quantity gathered was 93,500 lb.

The returns were fair, being approximately 118 lb. of lint per acre, as compared with 80 lb. and 103 lb. per acre in the two previous years.

Early in 1919 an Ordinance was passed empowering the Government to destroy trees and plants acting as hosts for cotton stainers. Under the provisions of this Ordinance, the Agricultural Department has succeeded, by the destruction of wild cotton plants, mahoe, and silk cotton trees, in practically freeing the Five Islands and St. John's Districts from these pests.

Owing to the late arrival of the annual supply of seed, a considerable decrease in the area planted in onions took place, the number of crates shipped being only 274, as compared with 577 in 1918 and 1,100 in 1917.

The quantity of corn (maize) grown in Antigua during the year, as in the previous year, was very considerable, which was due to the increased price obtainable for the grain and also to the very high cost of imported corn. Most of the maize grown on estates is planted on the banks of cane-fields as a catch crop. The cob is utilized, mixed with molasses, beans, or peas, as a nutritive feed for horses and cattle. The Government Granary, which in the previous year had proved extremely serviceable, having kiln-dried 74,005 lb. of shelled corn and manufactured 6,380 lb. cornmeal, did not operate, as large consignments of corn and cornmeal were arriving and there was practically a glut in the market.

The work of the Cotton and Onion Growers' Associations continued to be of great value to small owners, both from an educational as from an industrial point of view, for these Associations place within the ready reach of the peasants seeds of the best type available and guarantee an equitable price for their produce.

The former Association purchased 50,652 lb. of seed cotton from the peasants at prices varying from 6½d. to 8d. per lb., and paid a further bonus of 1½d. per lb.

The Sawcolts Land Settlement Scheme initiated in 1917 has proved a pronounced success. The estate is situated in the southern part of the island, at a distance of about 7 miles from St. John's. Since the inception of the scheme, about 55 persons have taken up, approximately, 70 acres, the value of which is £516. Practically the whole of the cultivable land has been taken up. The plots, which are under the general supervision of the Agricultural Department, are, on the whole, kept clean and tidy, and are planted in useful crops, chiefly sugar-canes and provisions, which are sold locally. The settlement also forms a convenient nucleus for labour for the Bendals Central Factory, which it adjoins.

The private land settlement at Tomlinson's estate projected by the Antigua Sugar Factory is meeting with considerable success. The settlement area covers about 80 acres, which is being allotted out at £10 to £12 per acre. The allottees pay a proportionate part of the purchase money each year for 10 years, after which period of time, when the whole payment has been made, a title is issued to the allottee.

It has been suggested that common lands should be provided for the peasants to keep their cattle on, This is an important suggestion, as it will ensure a supply of milk and so reduce infantile mortality, and will be a source of manure to maintain the fertility of the allotments.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

The revenue for 1919–20 was £80,007, giving an increase over that for the previous year of £15,516, and an excess over the estimated revenue of £18,237. Increase and excess were caused by an increase in taxation passed subsequent to the framing of the Estimates and to the success of the Government Cotton Farm.

The increase on taxation was effected by replacing the fixed rate of export duty on sugar, syrup, molasses and cotton, by an export duty on a sliding scale based on price, and by imposing a similar sliding scale export duty on coconuts.

The expenditure for 1919–20 amounted to £73,501, being an increase over that for 1918–19 of £9,421, and an excess over the estimated expenditure of £14,026.

The Surplus Funds rose from £11,299 on March 31st, 1919, to £17,813 on March 31st, 1920. The debt fell during the same period from £38,637 to £33,002.

The value of imports rose during the calendar year 1919 from £306,309 to £364,090, and of exports from £344,633 to £425,450.

Agricultural conditions were satisfactory during 1919, the average rainfall for 29 stations being 62·84 in. Good prices were obtained for the staple products, sugar and cotton.

The total export of sugar, equating syrup to Muscovado, amounted to 11,015 tons in 1919, an increase of 1,910 tons on that for the previous year, but a great decrease on the exports for 1916 and 1917.

The St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory produced 8,805 tons of crystals, an increase of 1,585 tons on 1918. Owing to the fact that the factory sold its output in advance, the high prices which ruled at the end of the year brought no benefit to the planters concerned or to the revenue.

The area planted in Sea Island cotton throughout the Presidency was about 5,000 acres. The season was favourable except in Nevis. The export amounts to 508,780 lb. of lint, a decrease on that for 1918 of 70,789 lb. The prices obtained were high.

A Government Cotton Farm was established early in 1919, extending over some 70 acres of Government land. From the 42 acres which were planted with cotton during the year, 16,986 lb. of lint were reaped and exported. The primary object of the farm, the supply of pedigree seed to cotton growers, was fully realised, 36,000 lb. of seed being obtained and made available to purchasers.

The cultivation of coconuts in Nevis progressed, with good prospects. The local sale of nuts, which formed an important article of diet during the scarcity of home-grown foodstuffs, greatly increased.

The cultivation of foodstuffs was maintained, and met local demands until interfered with by drought.

The total consumption of rum, imported and locally distilled, amounted to 26,246 proof gallons, an increase of 2,453 gallons on the figure for 1918.

No epidemic amongst either men or animals and no hurricane or other disaster occurred during the year. Labour conditions remained fairly satisfactory. There were considerable increases in wages.

A first step towards reduction of infantile mortality was taken by the establishment of a Maternity Ward, which soon became popular amongst the class for which it was intended.

DOMINICA.

The financial year 1919–1920 opened with a deficit of £3,108 and closed with a surplus of £894, a result due largely to the recuperative powers of the Presidency and to the expansion in trade which marked the latter part of the year. The total revenue for the year was £56,097, an increase of £8,000 in excess of the estimate, and of nearly £9,000 in excess of the revenue for the year 1918–1919.

Import duties from other than alcoholic liquors showed an increase of £1,835 on the estimates, while the revenue from export duties exceeded the amount estimated by £833.

The total import and export duties showed an increase of £5,314 on the revenue of the preceding year.

The actual expenditure for the year amounted to £52,095, or £4,262 in excess of the estimate—due principally to enhanced cost of material and stores and to the bonuses and increases of salary granted during the year to public officers.

The most noticeable feature in the export trade of the Presidency during the year was, perhaps, the enormous increase in the export of coconuts from 89,676 coconuts value £467 in 1918 to 492,426 coconuts value £4,103 in 1919. The large increase in the export of cacao is also significant. The figures for 1918 show an export of 4,239 cwt., value £14,735, while the figures for 1919 show an export of 7,387 cwt., value £27,293. The increased export of cacao is, however, partly due to the cessation of smuggling with the neighbouring French Colonies owing to the depreciation of the franc and to the greatly increased prices realized in the home markets. The shipments of cacao for the last five years are as follows :—

	Quantity.	Value.
1915	10,810 cwt.	£39,301
1916	8,707 ,,	17,151
1917	3,169 ,,	8,842
1918	4,239 ,,	14,735
1919	7,387 ,,	37,293

The lime crop for 1919, calculated in barrels of a capacity of 4·55 cubic feet, amounted to 401,923 barrels of fruit, or 83,000 barrels over the output of 1918. As, however, the crop of the latter year was 71,000 barrels of fruit below the average crops of the previous five years, 1913–1917, production during 1919 is therefore 12,000 barrels in excess of the average annual output of crop for several years prior to 1918.

The lime crop for the past five years calculated in barrels of fruit, is recorded below :—

1915	390,000
1916	384,000
1917	396,000
1918	318,000
1919	402,000

The following table calculated on the usual basis, shows the disposal of the crop under the various heads :—

Product.	Barrels of fruit.		Approximate percentage of total crop.
Concentrated Juice	250,077	..	62
Raw Juice ..	39,774	..	10
Fresh Limes ..	21,361	..	5
Citrate of Lime ..	90,068	..	22

The following statement gives the comparative quantities of the export of the different kinds of lime products in 1917, 1918, 1919 :—

Products.		1917.	1918.	1919.
Concentrated Lime Juice ..	gallons	149,775	148,939	166,718
Raw Juice	gallons	778,133	575,985	298,312
Citrate of Lime	cwt.	1,960	800	6,772
Green Limes	barrels	41,243	7,670	21,361
Essential Oil of Limes ..	lb.	45,141	25,096	67,787
Otto of Limes	lb.	10,004	13,676	16,964

The total value of lime products exported during 1919 was £196,401.

During the year some 125 men of the British West Indies Regiment returned to their homes here. The Government made them offers of land, which, however, they were unwilling to accept. A large number of them have since left the Island for the United States of America or Cuba, and the rest have been gradually absorbed into civil life.

In October occurred the lamented death of Mr. A. W. Mahaffy, O.B.E., Administrator of the Presidency. The Honourable Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., assumed the Administration and acted from October 1919, till April 30th, 1920, when Mr. R. Walter, C.M.G., arrived and assumed the government of the Presidency.

MONTSERRAT.

The revenue for the year was £19,336, an increase of £1,665 on that of 1918–19 (£17,671) ; the expenditure was £16,014, an increase of £3,121 on that of 1918–19 (£12,893). Both revenue and expenditure were thus nominally the highest on record ; this, however, being largely due to the real decrease in the value of the monetary unit.

The excess of revenue, £19,336, over expenditure, £16,014, was £3,322. This saving was chiefly due to the postponement of various necessary public works on account of local and general conditions.

The surplus, or excess of assets over liabilities, at the end of 1919–20 (March 31st, 1920) was £21,948, as against £18,626 at the end of the previous year.

The trade returns for the calendar year 1919 amounted to £161,203, the value of imports being £59,145 and of exports £102,058, as against £70,834 and £87,012 respectively in 1918. The direction of trade was as follows :—

	Imports.	Exports.
United Kingdom	£9,245	£85,771
British North America	11,233	2,575
Foreign Countries	20,354	7,137
Inter-Presidential	18,313	6,575
	£59,145	£102,058

The very marked increase in the value of exports is to be attributed to a good cotton crop and the high price of cotton. On this account the exports to the United Kingdom in 1919 were almost equal to the total exports of the previous year.

The shipment of cotton lint was 1,222 bales, giving a net weight 431,583 lb., of an estimated total value of £68,952, an increase of 58,853 lb. as compared with 1918 (372,730 lb.) ; 533 tons of cotton seed, of the estimated value of £5,389, were also exported.

The cotton crop yield for the last four seasons has been :—

1916–17	313,322 lb.
1917–18	409,855 ,,
1918–19	438,222 ,,
1919–20	538,334 ,,

The other agricultural industries remained, in comparison, unimportant, as it is probable they will continue to do as long as cotton can be cultivated and sold at the present very remunerative prices. The export of raw lime juice was 96,851 gallons, of an estimated value of £15,587 ; concentrated lime juice, citrate of lime, and fresh limes were also exported to a total estimated value of £1,887. Only 58 tons, value £844, of muscovado sugar were exported. There is a small but growing bay oil industry, and the export of papaine was 1,970 lb., value £1,663.

The total tonnage of shipping entered and cleared in 1919–20 was 302,629 tons—steamers 289,116 tons and sailing vessels 13,513 tons, the former being chiefly due to the fortnightly calls in either direction of the R.M.S.P. Company's vessels running between Canada and British Guiana. Direct passenger communication with the United Kingdom has practically ceased since the War.

The estimated population of the Presidency in 1919 was 11,264. The normal increase in the population is more than counterbalanced by the constant stream of emigration to the United States, Canada, Cuba and St. Domingo.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Revenue.

The revenue for 1919–20, including £160 derived from the sale of Crown Lands and £100 for the sale of the Government sloop," Lady Constance," amounted to £14,880, as compared with £5,070 in the preceding year. The increase of £9,810 was due to the sudden rise in the price of cotton lint and to the collecting of outstanding taxes and increased supervision on behalf of the Treasury. The total revenue for the three years 1917–18 to 1919–20 is shown in the subjoined table :—

1917–18	£6,147
1918–19	5,070
1919–20	14,880

The revenue exceeded the expenditure by £6,730. The total expenditure for the years 1917–18 to 1919–20 was as follows :—

1917–18	£5,774
1918–19	6,227
1919–20	8,149

The excess of assets over liabilities at the end of the financial year amounted to £6,184, of which £4,500 were held by the Crown Agents at 6 per cent. and £68 deposited in the Danish Bank at St. Thomas, the balance being held at the Treasury and to the Presidency's credit in other Islands.

The total values of the imports of the three years 1917–18 to 1919–20 are as follows:—

1917–18	£13,988
1918–19	17,160
1919–20	19,709

The statistics of the imports of alcoholic liquors into the Presidency shows a marked increase in quantity and value due to the fact of the Virgin Islands of the U.S.A. having become dry. If the present tendency continues a further increase is anticipated for the coming year.

The following table shows the value of the exports of the Presidency for the three years :—

1917–18	£8,817
1918–19	10,597
1919–20	13,362

Increase is largely due to better markets and increased demand.

Sailing vessels of an average tonnage of 13,059 entered and cleared, as compared with sailing vessels 11,248 tons the year before.

Government Experimental Station.

The Government Cotton Ginnery had a most successful year and was a marked benefit to the revenue of the Presidency owing to the very high prices ruling for lint towards the end of the year. The high price paid for sugar, onions, and in fact all ground provisions enabled the Experiment Station to show substantial financial returns.

A policy of rigid economy was necessary owing to a deficiency in the revenue. The productivity of the peasants was enhanced owing to the high ruling prices of all agricultural products. The ensuing year opens with every prospect of a successful financial year.

T. R. ST.-JOHNSTON
(Colonial Secretary, Leeward Islands)

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

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No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1039	St. Helena	1919
1040	Weihaiwei	,,
1041	Nyasaland	1918–1919
1042	Turks and Caicos Islands	1919
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MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
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83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies

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No. 1113.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1920-21.

(For Report for 1919–20 see No. 1074.)

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No. 1113.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1920–21.

The Leeward Islands form the most northerly group of the "Lesser Antilles" in the West Indies, and lie between 18° 27′ and 15° 10′. The Colony is now a federation, comprising the five "Presidencies"—formerly separate colonies—of Antigua, St. Christopher (usually called St. Kitts), with which Presidency is included Nevis, Dominica, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands.

2. The governments of the first three Presidencies are each administered by an "Administrator," while the officers in charge of the two smaller Presidencies of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands have the title of "Commissioner." All the Presidencies form together one colony under a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who is resident at Antigua, the headquarters of the Colony. When the Governor is visiting other Presidencies the Colonial Secretary assumes, under a dormant commission, the office of Administrator of Antigua; and similarly when the Governor is away from the Colony the Colonial Secretary assumes the administration of the government of the whole Colony.

3. *Councils.*—There is an Executive and a Legislative Council for the colony, and also separate Executive and Legislative Councils for each of the four larger Presidencies, the Virgin Islands having only an Executive Council.

The Legislative Council of the Colony consists of eight official and eight elective members, three of the elective members being chosen by the unofficial members of the Antigua Legislative Council, three by those of St. Kitts, and two by those of Dominica.

I. FINANCIAL.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year ended 31st March, 1921, was £304,136, showing an increase of £63,660 in comparison with the revenue for the year 1919–20.

The expenditure for the year 1920–21, exclusive of Imperial grants, was £274,706, as against £220,578 for the previous year, showing an increase of £54,128.

The excess of assets over liabilities of £82,870, on 31st March, 1921, was made up as follows :—

Antigua	£18,690
St. Kitts-Nevis	34,338
Montserrat	19,827
Dominica	1,545
Virgin Islands	8,470
	£82,870

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounts to £251,050.

The following table shows the amount of the loans raised and the amounts standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds on 31st March, 1921.

Presidency.	*Total amount of loans raised.*	*Amount to credit of Sinking Fund.*
Antigua	£115,700	£61,120
St. Kitts-Nevis	59,250	27,923
Dominica	65,000	34,152
Montserrat	11,100	5,680
	£251,050	£128,875

II. IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND SHIPPING.

Imports.

The total value of the imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1920 amounted to £1,560,083, as against £974,612 in 1919, being an increase of £585,471.

Exports.

The total value of exports for the year 1920 was £1,900,065, as against £1,172,775 in 1919, being an increase of £727,290.

Total tonnage of shipping entered and cleared :—

	1919.	1920.
Antigua	538,983	625,151
St. Kitts-Nevis	578,890	727,103
Dominica	503,509	569,142
Montserrat	302,629	318,240
Virgin Islands	13,059	14,839

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III. LEGISLATION.

Seventeen Federal Acts and sixty-eight Presidential Ordinances were passed during the year.

In No. 8 of the Federal Acts power is taken to expel undesirable persons from the Colony, and No. 9 prohibits the publication and importation of seditious newspapers, books, and documents.

IV. EDUCATION.

(A) *Elementary.*

The number of Elementary Schools in the Colony in the year under review was 98, distributed as follows :—

Presidency.	*Government.*	*State-aided.*	*Total.*
1. Antigua Barbuda	18	1	19
2. St. Kitts	16	2	18
Nevis	10	—	10
Anguilla	5	—	5
3. Dominica	23	3	26
4. Montserrat	—	13	13
5. Virgin Islands	—	7	7
Total			98

The numbers enrolled and in average attendance were :—

Whole Colony.	1919–20.	1920–21.
Number on roll	22,233	21,886
Average attendance	9,331	9,550

The total expenditure in the Primary Schools, exclusive of salaries of the departmental officers and of establishment charges, was £10,188 0s. 2½d., against £9,256 in the previous year.

(B) *Secondary.*

The following is a list of the Secondary Schools of the Colony, with their respective grants :—

School.	*Grants.* £	s.	d.
1. Antigua Grammar School	535	0	0
2. Antigua Girls' High School	200	0	0
3. Dominica Grammar School	566	0	0
4. St. Kitts-Nevis Grammar School	650	0	0
5. Girls' High School, St. Kitts	93	15	0
6. Excelsior School, Nevis	50	0	0
7. Thomas Oliver Memorial School, Antigua	50	0	0
8. Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, Antigua	240	0	0

The Primary Schools in Antigua, Dominica, and St. Kitts-Nevis are all under direct Government control, and are managed by a Sub-Inspector of Schools in each Presidency.

In Montserrat and the Virgin Islands they are, with one exception, denominational, and are managed by the clergy of the various denominations. The Schools are examined annually by the Inspector of Schools, and grants are awarded on the result of this examination. The pupil teacher system is in vogue, the period of service being three years. Studentships are awarded to specially selected candidates at the end of their pupil teachership. Those for girls are held at the Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, Antigua, and those for boys at the Rawle Training Institute, Codrington College, Barbados, for two years to complete their training as assistant teachers.

V. GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

There is a Central Lunatic Asylum at Skerretts, Antigua, and two Leper Asylums in the Colony, one at Rat Island, Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles, St. Kitts.

VI. JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Prisoners sentenced to six months' imprisonment are sent to the Common Prison of the Leeward Islands, in Antigua, and immediately before the expiration of their sentences are returned to the Presidencies from which they were committed. In 1920 17 prisoners were transferred to the Central Prison, seven being sent from St. Kitts-Nevis, five from Dominica, and five from Montserrat.

The daily average of the St. John's Training School in Antigua, to which boys are sent from all the Presidencies, and which was established under the provisions of the Leeward Islands' Act, No. 4 of 1891, for the reformation, education, and training of boys under 18 years of age, was 63·95. The expenditure was £1,635 and the receipts £488, the cost per head to Antigua being £38 4s. 11d. The health of the school was good. The boys were employed in agricultural and garden work in addition to the ordinary indoor work of the school.

Comparative table of criminal statistics for 1919 and 1920 :—

	1919.	1920.
Cases reported to the Police	8,367	5,112
Number of persons brought before the Magisterial Courts	17,624	15,644
Summary Convictions ..	9,301	8,043
Indictments in the Superior Courts	103	140
Convictions in the Superior Courts	64	94

VII. POLICE.

The actual strength of the Force on 31st December, 1920, was five officers and 131 non-commissioned officers and men, whereas the authorised establishment, as provided for in the Estimates, was six officers and 180 non-commissioned officers and men. The Force was, therefore, one officer and 49 men under strength on 31st December, 1920.

Nine men only were enlisted during the year. Recruiting has been most disappointing in view of the fact that the pay of the non-commissioned officers and men has been increased by 25 per cent. since 1st January, 1920.

VIII. VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Colony, according to the Census of 1921, was 122,242, showing a decrease of 4,951 when compared with the Census of 1911.

In Antigua the estimated population on 31st December, 1920, was 31,210. The number of marriages registered in the Presidency in 1920 was 116, as against 100 in 1919, while the births were 1,089, being 34·56 per thousand. The legitimate births were 275 and the illegitimate births 814, the percentage being 25·25 and 74·75 respectively. The deaths during the year numbered 1,075, which gives a death-rate of 34·11 per thousand. The deaths of children under one year, exclusive of still-births, were 254, or 23·63 per cent. of the total.

In respect of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis the number of inhabitants at the close of 1920 was estimated as follows :—

St. Kitts, 27,004 ; Nevis, 14,430 ; Anguilla, 5,098 ; the birth-rates being St. Kitts 37·97 per thousand, Nevis 40·92 and Anguilla 51·90, while the death-rate for St. Kitts was 46·02 per thousand, for Nevis 36·82, and for Anguilla 25·36. The illegitimate birth-rate for St. Kitts was 24·67 per thousand, for Nevis 20·22, and for Anguilla 23·25, as against the legitimate birth-rate of 6·95 and 12·09 and 20·24 for St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla respectively. The mortality of infants under one year of age is high, being 322, 173 and 43 in St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla respectively.

In Dominica the estimated population at the end of 1920 was 40,688. The births registered during the year numbered 1,683, as against 1,532 in 1919, giving a birth-rate of 41·12 per thousand. Illegitimate births exceeded the legitimate by 229 (956, as against 727), the percentage of the legitimate and illegitimate births being respectively 43·46 and 56·54. The total number of registered deaths was 1,124, as against 1,070 in 1919, while the death-rate was 27·62 per thousand. Of the deaths in 1920, 656 were of children under five years of age.

The report on the vital statistics for Montserrat in 1920 shows a population of 11,015 on 31st December, 1920, the births registered being 448, as against 387 in 1919, and showing a birth-rate of 41·14. The legitimate births were 163 and the illegitimate 285, the percentage being 36·4 and 63·6 respectively. The deaths registered were 256, as against 197 in 1919, and the death-rate was 23·24 per thousand, as against 17·5 per thousand in the previous year.

The deaths of children under one year of age were 60, or 23·43 per cent. of the total, as against 20·81 in 1919.

The general health of the Colony during the year was satisfactory, but no great advance in health and sanitary conditions will be made until the people as a whole are brought to realise the importance of cleanliness in elementary habits and of ventilation and a well-regulated diet, especially for infants.

IX. METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Antigua.

The average rainfall was taken at 70 stations. The average annual rainfall for 47 years is 44·67 in., and the rainfall for 1920 was 14·58 in. below the average.

The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 2·15 in. on 23rd December; the lowest temperature for the year was registered on the 12th April.

St. Kitts.

The rainfall at La Guerite Station was 38·75 in. for the year 1920.

Dominica.

The mean rainfall at different stations was :—

14 Leeward Stations	84·86 in.
3 Windward Stations	105·16 ,,
5 Inland Stations	226·34 ,,
7 Lasoye Stations	92·11 ,,

X. POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

British and Foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and the Quebec Steamship Company. The mails are conveyed between Tortola and St. Thomas, and between Tortola and Virgin Gorda by a launch belonging to the Government, and by private boats, as follows :—

From Tortola to St. Thomas about four times a week, and
From Tortola to Virgin Gorda about six times a month.

There is a fortnightly service by sailing boat between St. Kitts and Anguilla. A sloop is also subsidised by the Government of Montserrat to take mails and passengers between that Presidency, Antigua and St. Kitts.

Antigua, St. Kitts and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other, the other West Indian Colonies, Europe and America by the cables of the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company.

There is no communication by telegraph with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands. Messages can, however, be sent to the Virgin Islands by cable *via* St. Thomas. St. Kitts is in heliographic communication with Nevis.

XI. CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel T. R. St.-Johnston was sworn in as Acting Governor for a short period on 21st December, 1920, owing to the illness of Sir E. M. Mereweather.

His Honour A. K. Young was appointed Chief Justice and assumed duty on 19th March, 1921.

His Honour W. P. Michelin was appointed Senior Puisne Judge on 16th August, 1920, and

His Honour K. E. Poyser, D.S.O., was appointed 2nd Puisne Judge on 26th November, 1920.

The Honourable M. V. Camacho was appointed Attorney General on 1st December, 1920.

Mr. E. D'A. Tibbits was appointed Assistant Colonial Secretary on 1st October, 1920.

ANTIGUA.

The year under review was marked by severe and prolonged drought, and owing to the resulting falling off in the sugar cane crops the Presidency would have suffered proportionately in its financial condition were it not for the fact that abnormal prices still ruled in the sugar industry. The year opened with a Surplus Balance of £7,454 and closed with a Surplus Balance of £18,690, although a sum of £2,563 was placed to a special Reserve Fund and is not included in the final surplus.

The outstanding feature of general interest was the visit to the Colony of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who was received everywhere with the greatest enthusiasm and loyalty.

The revenue for the year 1920–21 reached £106,829, exceeding the estimates by £16,700, as against £70,158 in the previous year, an increase of £36,671. The average revenue of the Presidency for the quinquennial period has been £74,242, as compared with £52,768 for the five years antecedent to 1915–16.

The revenue derived from Customs amounted to £76,721, as against £43,801 in the previous year, the increase being attributable to the increase in the value of the goods imported.

The expenditure of the year, estimated at £70,678, reached £93,093, or more than £22,264 in 1919–20, and £40,529, on the average expenditure for the quinquennial period antecedent to the War. This comparatively large increase is due to the high prices of food and other articles used for the Government institutions and works of public utility, and also to the rise in rates of exchange with the United States of America.

Value of the Principal Exports in 1919 and 1920 :—

	1919.	1920.
Vacuum Pan Sugar ..	£261,648	£521,311
Muscovado Sugar ..	39,176	24,154
Molasses and Syrup ..	13,738	22,567
Cotton	16,362	9,313
Onions	377	851
Hides and Skins ..	1,782	1,205
Preserved Fruits ..	2,292	3,007
Lime Juice	1,079*	—
Green Limes	246	42
Tamarinds	2,264*	—

* Included in heading " Preserved Fruits."

In Antigua the year 1920 was, from an agricultural point of view, a more satisfactory one than the preceding one, owing to high prices and a crop rather over the average. This was due to a high rainfall during the growing months in 1919. Unfortunately the first half of 1920 was exceedingly dry and the canes in the northern and central districts suffered heavily.

The average rainfall for the calendar year was 30·09 in., or 19·47 in. less than that of 1919. The labour supply was satisfactory though still limited.

In the annual report of the Antigua Sugar Factory for 1920 it is shown that the number of tons made was 10,638, as against 9,739 in 1919, and that the total proceeds from sugar and molasses were £401,218, as against £252,460 in 1919. The total expenditure was £296,099, a surplus of £105,129 being thus left for distribution. The average sales price of the sugar manufactured was £37 per ton and one ton of sugar was obtained from 8·81 tons of cane.

Bendals Sugar Factory manufactured 2,450 tons of sugar, equal to one ton of sugar from 9·48 tons of cane. The factory was supplied by nine estates. During the year arrangements were made for the factory to be taken over by a new syndicate, but this deal has since fallen through.

The area planted in cotton during the year 1920–21 shows a slight increase in acreage over that of the previous year, being 800 in Antigua and 90 acres in Barbuda—or 890 acres throughout the Presidency. About nine-tenths of the area planted in cotton in Barbuda was under Government supervision. Owing to unfavourable weather the yield was very low, with a fair percentage of stained cotton—the total amounts being 35,142 lb. clean lint and 2,500 lb. stains.

Early in 1919 an Ordinance was passed empowering the Government to destroy trees and plants acting as hosts for cotton stainers. This work was carried on at intervals during the year, and in consequence stainers were not so much in evidence as in the past.

Owing to the late arrival of the annual supply of onion seed, and unfavourable weather, the season was a comparatively poor one. The number of crates shipped being 1,071 as compared with 577 in 1919 and 1,309 in 1918. These results fall far short of the returns for 1916, when 6,940 crates were shipped. The onions are shipped principally through the Antigua Onion Growers' Association—thus uniformity and proper packing are ensured. The planters obtained a total return of 2¾d. for their onions—the highest price received since the formation of the Association in 1913.

The quantity of corn (maize) grown in Antigua during the year was, owing to unfavourable dry weather, somewhat scanty and only sufficient for local demands. Most of the maize grown on estates is planted on the banks of cane-fields as a catch crop. The cob is utilized, mixed with molasses, beans, or peas, as a nutritive feed for horses and cattle. Owing to plentiful supplies of corn and cornmeal—chiefly from the United States of America—there was no need for the Government Granary to operate. It should be pointed out that the Antigua corn fetches a high price locally, and if converted into cornmeal could not compete against the low-priced degerminated American corn.

ST. KITTS.

The Revenue for 1920–21 was £106,750, giving an increase over that for the previous year of £26,743 and an excess over the estimated revenue of £35,472. The high figure reached was due to the high prices obtained for sugar and cotton with their effect on revenue through the sliding scale Export Duty, to the resultant general prosperity.

The Expenditure amounted to £91,476, being an increase over that for 1919–20 of £17,975 and an excess over estimated expenditure of £24,269. This excess was caused principally by increase in salaries of and grant of bonus to public officers, by increased cost of institutions due to increase in cost of materials and labour, by inauguration of new Government activities, particularly in the direction of Maternity work and public health, and by the undertaking of Extraordinary public works and restorations.

The Surplus Funds rose from £17,813 on 31st March, 1920, to £34,338 on 31st March, 1921. In the latter figure is included a Reserve Fund of £2,000 and an Investment Depreciation Fund of £1,250.

The Public Debt fell during the financial year from £35,002 to £31,327.

The value of Imports rose during the calendar year 1920 from £364,090 to £564,117 and of exports from £425,450 to £768,364.

Agricultural conditions were satisfactory as far as the sugar crop reaped in 1920 was concerned; but the rainfall was the lowest on record for the past 20 years and about 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. below the average, materially affecting the crop for 1921.

The total export of sugar, equating syrup to Muscovado, was 12,483 tons in 1920, an increase of 1,468 tons on that for the previous year, but considerably below the average.

The St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory produced 10,037 tons of crystals.

High prices were again obtained for crystals and syrup and record prices for Muscovado sugar. The export value of the sugar crop, including syrup and molasses, was £506,947.

The area planted in Sea Island Cotton was about 5,000 acres, as in previous years. The yield in St. Kitts was not up to the average owing to bad weather conditions in the early part of the year. In Nevis, where the cotton was planted later an almost record yield was obtained.

The total export of cotton for the year 1920 was 663,319 lb., though much of the crop remained undisposed of at the close of the year owing to the slump in the Cotton Market.

Pink Boll worm, a serious cotton pest, was discovered in St. Kitts late in the year. Owing to its late appearance little damage was done to early planted cotton, but a considerable portion of that planted later was destroyed for the purpose of controlling the pest. Regulations for the control were enacted and a Cotton Inspector appointed to carry them into effect. In order further to combat the pest the month of February was fixed as a close season for cotton.

Sixty-five acres were planted at the Government Cotton Farm. Owing to the unfavourable season and the advent of Pink Boll worm only 13,811 lb. of lint was obtained, an average of 212 lb. of lint per acre against 400 lb. in 1919. Five tons of seed, after hand selection and fumigation, were sold to growers for planting.

The cultivation of Coconuts in Nevis progressed and now covers 500 to 600 acres. The results were good and high prices were obtained.

The area planted in ground provisions was well kept up and the supply plentiful.

Labour conditions were very satisfactory. Wages were increased 50 per cent. all round on those for 1919.

The total consumption of rum, imported and locally distilled, amounted to 27,176 proof gallons, an increase of 930 gallons over the figure for 1919.

Serious epidemics of Measles and Whooping Cough invaded St. Kitts and Nevis, 724 and 743 cases respectively being reported, accounting for a total of 142 deaths, or 9·7 per cent. of the total deaths for the year.

Toward the end of the year a Midwives Board was established for the control and regulation of midwifery, a further step towards reduction of infantile mortality.

DOMINICA.

The financial year 1920–21 started with a surplus of £894 and closed with a surplus of £1,545. The total Revenue for the year was £59,219, an increase of £8,246 in excess of the Estimate and of £3,122 in excess of the revenue for the year 1919–20.

The principal items under which increased Revenue was collected were: (1) Customs, which gave a total of £33,215 as against an estimated revenue of £27,700; (2) Fees of Court, which showed an increase of £1,481 on the estimate; and (3) Post Office, which showed an increase of £806 on the estimate.

The Import and Excise duty on Rum was increased by an additional duty of one shilling per gallon in April, 1920. The result of this increased duty was £3,558.

Import duties from other than alcoholic liquors showed an increase of £1,848 on the estimates, while the Revenue from export duties exceeded the amount estimated by £108.

The actual expenditure for the year was £58,567, or £9,613 in excess of the estimated amount, due principally—as in 1919–20—to enhanced cost of material and stores and drugs, permanent increase in salaries to public officers and to temporary bonuses, and also to increased expenditure in respect of the Federal Contribution.

The year 1920 opened with comparatively bright prospects. The slump in cocoa prices and the fall in the prices of all tropical produce, however, brought about a serious change in the financial outlook, and entailed hardship to planters and labourers alike. In view of the chaotic conditions obtaining in world markets it is a source of legitimate satisfaction that Dominica was able to show a surplus of £1,545 on the year's finance.

The value of Imports rose during the calendar year 1920 from £203,360 to £286,168, but the value of Exports decreased from £256,789 in 1919 to £231,640 in 1920.

LIME INDUSTRY.

General Conditions.

Of the eight products obtained from the lime, there was, compared with the previous year, a falling off in production under no less than five of the more important heads, that is, concentrated lime juice, raw lime juice, citrate of lime, green limes, and distilled oil. Slight advances were recorded under the heads of ecuelled oil, lime juice cordial and pickled limes, but the business done in the two latter instances was so small that the increases were unimportant.

The crop shipped during 1920 calculated in barrels of a capacity of 4·55 cu. ft. amounted to 368,841 barrels of fruit. Compared with the output of the previous year, this shows a reduction of 33,000 barrels of limes.

During the three-year period 1915–17, the average annual output of limes was 390,000 barrels. For a similar period, 1918–20, the crop averaged 363,000 barrels.

The lime crop for the past five years calculated in barrels of fruit is recorded below :—

1916	384,000
1917	396,000
1918	318,000
1919	402,000
1920	369,000

The following table calculated on the usual basis* shows the disposal of the crop under the various heads :—

Product.	*Barrels of fruit.*	*Approximate percentage of total crop.*
Concentrated juice	231,060	62
Raw juice	36,411	10
Fresh limes	19,422	5
Citrate of lime	80,997	22

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* Fifty gallons of concentrated juice represent 75 barrels of lime fruits; seven and a half gallons of raw juice represent one barrel of lime fruits; one ton of citrate of lime is equivalent to 266 barrels of lime fruits.

The weather conditions were on the whole favourable in all districts of the island throughout the year. On the other hand, market conditions for lime products were generally unsatisfactory.

The exports of lime products during 1920 are as follows :—

Product.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
Concentrated lime juice	154,040 gallons	£74,938
Raw lime juice ..	273,082 ,,	27,877
Lime juice cordial ..	7,640 ,,	2,139
Green limes	19,422 barrels	25,410
Pickled limes	645 ,,	645
Citrate of lime ..	6,090 cwt.	20,300
Essential oil of limes..	58,151 lb.	14,926
Otto of limes	20,234 ,,	19,175
		£185,410

Compared with the previous year, there was a total decrease in values amounting to £10,991.

A development of considerable interest in respect to the green lime trade was the opening of direct communication between Dominica and Mobile, Ala., by the Lake Line Steamers. Mobile is a port which serves a large and populous area of the Southern States.

These boats now call at Roseau during the spring months of the year for consignments of green limes. This, however, does not mean the opening up of a new market, as Mobile and some of the towns in South Texas were previously supplied with Dominica limes by way of New York, but that route was a costly one owing to the heavy railway charges. Direct communication by sea should lead to a reduction of costs and, it is hoped, an extension of business.

The green lime trade has fallen off by over 50 per cent. during the last three years. The average annual shipments of this fruit for the three year period 1915–17 was 40,000 barrels. For the triennial period 1918–20, the yearly shipments averaged 16,000 barrels only. This considerable reduction is due to the embargo of 1918 and to the effect of prohibition in the United States. It now remains to be seen if the original volume of trade can be regained and increased. The feeling is generally expressed that once the merits of the green lime are widely known, there are great possibilities for this fruit as an ingredient of teetotal or "soft" drinks. It is, of course, well known that, previous to prohibition, the lime was largely used in alcoholic drinks. So far, the favourable view of the green lime as a factor in "soft" drinks has not materialised, and on the whole it would appear that requirements under this head are more likely to be met by the raw juice trade rather than by the fruit trade.

Another enterprise, which may have a great effect on the lime industry, is the erection of a local factory by the well-known firm of L. Rose & Co., Ltd., for making citric acid crystals. Under existing conditions the finished product is made in England and America from the concentrated lime juice and citrate of lime shipped from Dominica and from other countries in which lime and lemon trees are grown. It does not require much effort to see that if the large quantities of concentrated juice and calcium citrate now shipped from the island could be used locally for making citric acid crystals, something like a revolution would be effected in the lime industry. The two products mentioned represented no less than 84 per cent. of the total lime trade during the years 1919 and 1920. Apart from the considerable saving in freightage, many other advantages would accrue to planters. But undertakings of this kind, especially when started in tropical countries under new conditions, are very often beset with difficulties in the early stages. Much may be required in the nature of research work and also in agricultural and business efforts before success is attained, and the production of citric acid crystals within the tropics becomes an accomplished fact and a commercial success. That any obstacles which may arise will be speedily surmounted must be the earnest wish of all who have the interests of the lime industry at heart.

CACAO.

The export of cacao was 5,284 cwt., of a value of £21,356, as against an export of 7,387 cwt. of a value of £37,293 during 1919. The cacao market was greatly depressed, and at the close of the year a good deal of the Dominica product in London remained unsold.

COCONUTS.

Under the influence of good prices the export of coconuts constitutes a record, no less than 706,979 nuts, of a value of £7,364 being shipped; the figures for the previous year being 492,426 nuts valued at £4,103. There is no industry of a more promising character for Dominica than the growing of coconuts, and it is a great pity that so little attention is paid to the undoubtedly great possibilities which lie in this direction.

Steps were taken during the year to have a complete survey and revaluation made of properties in Roseau with a view to effecting a more equitable incidence of the Land and House Tax and to produce additional revenue both to the Government and to the local Municipality.

Owing to emigration to Cuba and the United States of America, and to other causes, there was a considerable outcry regarding dearth of labour in 1920. A Committee was appointed to enquire into the matter and made various useful suggestions towards improving matters. Since their recommendations, however, conditions have changed very considerably owing to the practical collapse of the sugar industry in Cuba, and it looks very much as if in the near future the problem will not be so much a shortage of labour as unemployment.

In conclusion, no report on the Presidency for the year 1920–21 would be complete without reference to the historic visit paid by the Prince of Wales, who arrived in the " Renown " on Sunday, 26th September, 1920. The Prince was presented with an Address of Welcome from the Town Board of Roseau ; various officers and men returned from the front were presented to him, as well as Government Officials, Members of Councils and leading citizens. He drove through gaily decorated streets and was received everywhere with demonstrations of loyalty by the people. The only thing that excited regret was the shortness of the visit and the consequent impossibility of showing the Prince something of the features of this wonderful and beautiful Island.

MONTSERRAT.

The Revenue for the year was £19,622, an increase of £286 on that of 1919–20 (£19,336) ; the Expenditure was £21,743, an increase of £5,729 on that of 1919–20 (£16,014). Both Revenue and Expenditure were thus nominally the highest on record ; this, however, is largely due to the real decrease in the value of the monetary unit.

The excess of Expenditure, £21,743, over Revenue, £19,622, was £2,121. This excess was chiefly due to the execution of various necessary public works which had been postponed on account of the local and general conditions caused by the War.

The surplus, or excess of assets over liabilities, at the end of 1920–21 (31st March, 1921) was £19,827, as against £21,948 at the end of the previous year.

The trade returns for the calendar year 1920 amounted to £319,535, the value of imports being £111,643 and of exports £207,892, as against £59,145 and £102,058 respectively in 1919.

The direction of trade was as follows :—

	Imports.	*Exports.*
United Kingdom ..	£31,689	£182,545
British North America ..	34,025	4,742
Foreign Countries ..	15,856	343
Inter-Presidential ..	30,073	20,262
	£111,643	£207,892

The very marked increase in the value of exports is to be attributed to a good cotton crop and the high price of cotton. On this account the export to the United Kingdom in 1920 was nearly 80 per cent. greater than the total export of the previous year in value.

The shipment of cotton lint was 1,544 bales, giving a net weight of 554,975 lb., of an estimated total value of £168,700, an increase of 123,392 lb., as compared with 1919 (431,583); 351 tons of cotton seed, of the estimated value of £3,717, were also exported.

The cotton crop yield for the last four seasons has been :—

1917–18	409,855 lb.
1918–19	438,222 ,,
1919–20	538,334 ,,
1920–21	395,035 ,,

The other agricultural industries remained, in comparison, unimportant. The export of raw lime juice shows a decrease from 96,851 gallons of an estimated value of £1,887 in 1919 to 81,277 gallons of an estimated value of £8,684 in 1920; concentrated lime juice, citrate of lime and fresh limes were also exported to a total estimated value of £2,734, as compared with £1,887 in 1919. Only 116 tons, of the value of about £7,000, of muscavado sugar were exported. There is a small but growing bay oil industry, and the export of papaine was 821 lb., value £602, as compared with 1,970 lb., value £1,663, in 1919.

The total tonnage of shipping entered and cleared in 1920–21 was 318,240 tons, steamers 307,118 tons and sailing vessels 11,122 tons, the former being chiefly due to the fortnightly calls in either direction of the R.M.S.P. Company's vessels running between Canada and British Guiana. Direct passenger communication with the United Kingdom has practically ceased since the War. There is no direct communication with the United States of America.

The estimated population of the Presidency in 1921 was 12,120. The normal increase in the population is counterbalanced by the constant stream of emigration to the United States, Canada, Cuba, and St. Domingo.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The Presidency of the Virgin Islands has reason to congratulate itself on the results achieved during the past financial year.

The year under review has been one of steady progress and advancement together with sound financial results. The revenue reached £11,715, to which must be added £2,500, being the cash value of the cotton crop actually in the hands of the Government but not yet sold, as against an estimated revenue of £7,167. Expenditure, which was kept well in hand, reached £9,816, which, when taking into consideration increased salaries and the paying off of over £860 bonus due to peasants from the 1918 crop, shows a marked improvement.

It is an encouraging sign to note that the revenue under Customs shows £5,129, an increase of practically three times as much as any year in the previous ten years, excepting 1919–20, when the revenue was £2,543; of this amount £2,100 was for Import Duty on Alcohol due to Prohibition in the neighbouring Island of St. Thomas; the balance of increase is largely due to the detection and punishment of smuggling and to increased prosperity. It is to be regretted that practically the entire volume of trade, valued at £67,515, was with the United States of America and not with any part of the British Empire. This must continue to be the case until steamship facilities are opened up between the Presidency and Canada.

The Virgin Islands have now become a credit to the Federation, having an actual surplus of £8,073, and no debt.

Crime, as usual, has been conspicuous by its absence except in the case of one murder. Some 13 cases of smuggling were caught and dealt with, while some half-dozen cases were apprehended but dismissed after a severe warning. The ever constant petty land disputes continue to occupy the Magistrate's time, but this must of necessity continue until a Government land survey takes place, when undoubtedly large areas at present in the hands of the peasants will accrue to Government and become Crown Lands. This undesirable state of affairs is due to the fact that practically every title deed states "so many acres more or less." The owners have in nearly every instance taken the opportunity to encroach on land which is in reality Government land.

The health of the Presidency as shown by the Medical Report is on the whole satisfactory, and if venereal disease can be checked from spreading, few Presidencies can boast better health statistics. The Medical Officer has shown the greatest keeness in the present and future welfare of the inhabitants, never tiring in his energy.

Agriculture.—Marked progress has been made in bringing the land under cultivation, large tracts of virgin soil being brought into bearing either under cotton or cereals. This is due to the high market prices ruling in St. Thomas and to the abnormally high price paid for cotton in 1919. An increase of fully 40 per cent. has taken place in land development. It is to be feared that unless the Agricultural Department exert themselves to the utmost by propaganda work, this development will receive a severe check owing to the heavy fall in the market price of cotton. There is no doubt that cotton at 2½d. per lb. yields a good return to the peasant, but it is equally certain that the peasant, having received 1s. 6d. and 2s. per lb. for his cotton for two years, considers 2½d. per lb. not worth bothering about. Bananas, onions, tanias and sweet potatoes have proved themselves well adapted to the soil and climate as staple crops. A ready market for these products is at present to be found at St. Thomas. The planting of coconuts has greatly developed and has been keenly fostered by the Agricultural Department, but it behoves the Administration to look ahead and find a new market for these products before the present limited market becomes flooded, as it may in the very near future.

Considerable trouble was taken by the Government to exploit the salt at Salt Island, with the result that some 1,000 bags of salt were reaped.

Finance.—The financial position of the Presidency is satisfactory, there being a surplus of assets over liabilities of approximately £2,000 to be carried forward to last year's surplus of £6,183, together with the entire cotton crop valued at £2,500 (estimated at 1s. 9d. per lb.), which has been purchased and in the hands of the Government. The Presidency is in the further happy position of having no debt.

Considerable anxiety has been caused the Administration by the fact of the Presidency being dependent for its currency on the Danish National Bank at St. Thomas. Owing to the heavy depreciation of the pound sterling, compared to the American and Danish West Indian dollar, varying between 20 per cent. and 30 per cent., a considerable amount of gambling has taken place which depleted the Presidency of Danish money and flooded it with Colonial Notes, which could not be realised at St. Thomas. More than once a very awkward and anxious situation arose when the Treasury was faced with nothing but Colonial Notes and a mere handful of British silver to pay the peasants for cotton sold to Government. The peasants, relying almost entirely on the St. Thomas market and shops for purchasing goods, practically refused to accept British silver or Colonial notes. Careful diplomatic handling of the peasants has up to date avoided open unpleasantness, but the situation still remains grave. The local stores, importing all their supplies from the United States of America, refuse to accept Colonial notes and dislike accepting British silver.

A marked improvement is to be noted in Road Town, the main town of the Presidency. A market place has been laid out. A library consisting of some 200 or more up-to-date novels has been established, where also the telegrams and periodicals can be seen. A Peasants' Agricultural Bank has been established which has proved not only a success but a great blessing to the populace. A Recreation Ground of some five acres has been artistically laid out with shrubs and tropical plants. A cricket ground and racecourse have added greatly to its attraction. The local Brass Band plays occasionally on Sundays in the band stand.

Street lamps, which were erected during the year, give a pleasing finish to a naturally beautiful harbour where every night some six or more sloops lie moored at anchor with riding lights burning.

Attention is being paid to the building of a small hospital, but owing to high prices, lack of labour and unforeseen difficulties this has had to be postponed until the forthcoming year, although the matter is well in hand, funds and valuable gifts having been received for the same.

Wrecks.—During the year two large schooners became stranded on the coral reef of Anegada. The cargo of the one containing salt fish was salved after considerable difficulties and realized £1,500. The other, containing tiles, became a total wreck. No lives were lost. The captain and crews of vessels when wrecked at Anegada are apt to fancy that they are back in mediæval days, as the inhabitants are still the nearest approach to the Buccaneer Pirates found in the good old days. Stripped to the waist, with a bowie knife in their girdle, they swim out and endeavour to make drastic terms with the captain before rendering assistance, and they play the game of bluff to perfection.

In conclusion, it may not be amiss to point out that the entire future development of the Presidency rests on transport facilities and sound administration. The Presidency has passed through its worst difficulties, but unless encouragement and transport facilities are forthcoming the British Virgin Islands will lapse back into even darker days than 1917–18. Given a helping hand, encouragement and transport facilities, her progress is assured.

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1080	Fiji	1920
1081	Gibraltar	,,
1082	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1919
1083	Bechuanaland	1920–1921
1084	St. Helena	1920
1085	Basutoland	1920–1921
1086	Ceylon	1920
1087	Barbados	1920–1921
1088	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1919–1920
1089	East Africa Protectorate	,,
1090	Sierra Leone	1920
1091	Zanzibar	,,
1092	Cayman Islands	1918–1919
1093	Cyprus	1920
1094	St. Vincent	,,
1095	Bahamas	1920–1921
1096	Nyasaland	1920
1097	Weihaiwei	,,
1098	Nigeria	,,
1099	New Hebrides	,,
1100	Somaliland	,,
1101	Straits Settlements	,,
1102	Swaziland	1920–1921
1103	Trinidad and Tobago	1920
1104	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
1105	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
1106	Seychelles	,,
1107	Ashanti	,,
1108	Hong Kong	,,
1109	British Guiana	,,
1110	British Honduras	,,
1111	Malta	1920–1921
1112	Uganda	1920

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil seed, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Visit by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1170.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1921-22.

(For Report for 1920–21 see No. 1113.)

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No. 1170.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1921–22.

The Leeward Islands form the most northerly group of the "Lesser Antilles" in the West Indies, and lie between 18° 27′ and 15° 10′. The Colony is now a Federation, comprising the five "Presidencies"—formerly separate colonies—of Antigua, St. Christopher (usually called St. Kitts), with which Presidency is included Nevis, Dominica, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands.

2. The governments of the first three Presidencies are each administered by an "Administrator," while the officers in charge of the two smaller Presidencies of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands have the title of "Commissioner." All the Presidencies form together one colony under a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who is resident at Antigua, the headquarters of the Colony. When the Governor is visiting other Presidencies the Colonial Secretary assumes, under a dormant commission, the office of Administrator of Antigua; and similarly when the Governor is away from the Colony the Colonial Secretary assumes the administration of the government of the whole Colony.

3. *Councils.*—There is an Executive and a Legislative Council for the Colony, and also separate Executive and Legislative Councils for each of the four larger Presidencies, the Virgin Islands having only an Executive Council.

The Legislative Council of the Colony consists of eight official and eight elective members, three of the elective members being chosen by the unofficial members of the Antigua Legislative Council, three by those of St. Kitts, and two by those of Dominica.

I. FINANCIAL.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year ended 31st March, 1922, was £260,671, made up as follows :—

Antigua	£89,149
St. Kitts-Nevis..	84,056
Dominica	57,810
Montserrat	17,102
Virgin Islands	12,554
	£260,671

thus showing a decrease of £43,465 when compared with the revenue for the year 1920-21.

The expenditure for the year 1921-22 was £303,575 as against £274,706 for the previous year, or an increase of £28,869. The expenditure of the various Presidencies of the Colony was as follows :—

Antigua	£105,931
St. Kitts-Nevis	102,657
Dominica	63,415
Montserrat	24,253
Virgin Islands	7,319
	£303,575

The excess of assets over liabilities of £28,305, on 31st March, 1922, was made up as follows :—

Antigua	£1,908	
St. Kitts-Nevis..	14,487	
Montserrat	2,662	
Virgin Islands	13,307	
	£32,364	
Dominica	4,059	(Excess of liabilities)
	£28,305	

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounted to £250,850 on 31st March, 1922.

The following table shows the amount of the loans raised and the amounts standing to the credit of the sinking funds on 31st March, 1922.

Presidency.	*Total amount of loans raised.*	*Amount to credit of Sinking Fund.*
Antigua	£115,500	£64,248
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	59,250	29,548
Dominica	65,000	36,266
Montserrat	11,100	5,680
	£250,850	£135,742

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II. IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND SHIPPING.

Imports.

The total value of the imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1921 amounted to £1,059,312, as against £1,527,889 in 1920, being a decrease of £468,577.

Exports.

The total value of exports for the year 1921 was £970,694, as against £1,781,361 in 1920, being a decrease of £810,667.

Shipping.

Total tonnage of shipping entered and cleared :—

	1920.	1921.
Antigua	625,151	635,183
St. Kitts-Nevis	727,103	692,342
Dominica	569,142	590,909
Montserrat	318,240	332,712
Virgin Islands	14,839	15,669

III. LEGISLATION.

Twenty-one Federal Acts and seventy Presidential Ordinances were passed during the year 1921. Of the Federal Acts perhaps the most important were "The Probation of Offenders'" Act, and the "Recruiting of Emigrants'" Act.

IV. EDUCATION.

(A) *Elementary.*

The number of elementary schools in the Colony in the year under review was 99, distributed as follows :—

Presidency.		*Government.*	*State-aided.*	*Total.*
1.	Antigua Barbuda	18	2	20
2.	St. Kitts	16	2	18
	Nevis	10	—	10
	Anguilla	5	—	5
3.	Dominica	23	3	26
4.	Montserrat	—	13	13
5.	Virgin Islands	—	7	7
	Total			99

The numbers enrolled and in average attendance were :—

Whole Colony.	1920–21.	1921–22.
Number on roll	21,886	23,277
Average attendance ..	9,550	12,412

The total expenditure in the primary schools, exclusive of salaries of the departmental officers and of establishment charges, was £14,259 11s. 2½d., against £10,188 0s. 2½d. in the previous year.

(B) *Secondary.*

The following is a list of the secondary schools of the Colony, with their respective grants :—

School.	*Grants.* £	*s.*	*d.*
1. Antigua Grammar School	535	0	0
2. Antigua Girls' High School ..	200	0	0
3. Dominica Grammar School ..	566	0	0
4. St. Kitts-Nevis Grammar School ..	650	0	0
5. Girls' High School, St. Kitts ..	93	15	0
6. Excelsior School, Nevis	50	0	0
7. Thomas Oliver Memorial School, Antigua	50	0	0
8. Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, Antigua ..	240	0	0

The primary schools in Antigua, Dominica, and St. Kitts-Nevis are all under direct Government control, and are managed by a Sub-Inspector of Schools in each Presidency.

In Montserrat and the Virgin Islands they are, with one exception, denominational, and are managed by the clergy of the various denominations. The schools are examined annually by the Inspector of Schools, and grants are awarded on the result of this examination. The pupil teacher system is in vogue, the period of service being three years. Studentships are awarded to specially selected candidates at the conclusion of their pupil teachership for two years to complete their training as assistant teachers. Those for girls are held at the Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, Antigua, and those for boys at the Rawle Training Institute, Codrington College, Barbados.

V. GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

There is a Central Lunatic Asylum at Skerretts, Antigua, and two Leper Asylums in the Colony, one at Rat Island, Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles, St. Kitts.

VI. JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Prisoners sentenced to six months' imprisonment are sent to the Common Prison of the Leeward Islands, in Antigua, and immediately before the expiration of their sentences are returned to the Presidencies from which they were committed. In 1921–22 29 prisoners were transferred to the Central Prison, 6 being sent from St. Kitts-Nevis, 15 from Dominica, 6 from Montserrat, and 2 from the Virgin Islands.

The expenditure on the Central Prison was £4,328 17s. 10d. and the receipts £3,039 8s. 5d., the cost per head to Antigua being £15 16s. 6d.

The daily average number of prisoners was 81·5.

St. John's Training School.

The St. John's Training School was established under the provisions of the Leeward Islands' Act, No. 4 of 1891, for the reformation, education, and training of boys under 18 years of age.

On 1st April, 1921, there were 61 boys at the School. During the year 10 boys were received (7 from Antigua, 1 from St. Kitt's-Nevis and 2 from Dominica). Thirteen boys were discharged during the year, leaving 58 in the school on 31st March, 1922. The daily average was 60·5. The expenditure was £1,330 15s. 2d. and the receipts £1,065 8s. 10d., the cost per head to Antigua being £19 2s. 3d. The health of the school was good. The boys were employed in agricultural and garden work in addition to the ordinary indoor work of the school.

Comparative table of criminal statistics for 1920 and 1921 :—

	1920.	1921.
Cases reported to the Police	5,112	5,882
Number of persons brought before the Magisterial Courts	15,644	18,679
Summary Convictions ..	8,043	12,279
Indictments in the Superior Courts	140	54
Convictions in the Superior Courts	94	32

VII. POLICE.

The actual strength of the Force on 31st December, 1921, was 6 officers and 143 non-commissioned officers and men, whereas the authorised establishment, as provided for in the Estimates, was 6 officers and 169 non-commissioned officers and men. The Force was, therefore, 26 men under strength on 31st December, 1921.

Twenty-nine men were enlisted to fill vacancies, an increase of twenty on the figures for the previous year. After a long period of stagnation in recruiting, the effect of the increases in pay and allowances granted to non-commissioned officers and men as from the 1st June, 1921, began to be felt and candidates for the Force were forthcoming. More careful selection became possible, and for every man selected at least four were rejected on grounds of medical unfitness, character, or deficiency in education or intelligence.

Colonel-Commandant G. G. S. Carey, C.B., commanding the troops at Jamaica, inspected the Leeward Islands Police Force, and in his reports he commented favourably on the training, appearance, and discipline of the Force.

The health of all ranks during the year was satisfactory; there was no epidemic disease and no deaths.

VIII. VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Colony, according to the Census of 1921, was 122,242, showing a decrease of 4,951 when compared with the Census of 1911.

In Antigua the estimated population on 31st December, 1921, was 29,592. The number of marriages registered in the Presidency during 1921 was 93, as against 116 in 1920, while the births were 1,040, being 35·11 per thousand. The legitimate births were 244 and the illegitimate births 783, the percentage being 23·46 and 76·54 respectively. The deaths during the year numbered 974, which gives a death-rate of 32·91 per thousand. The deaths of children under one year, exclusive of still-births, were 204, or 20·97 per cent. of the total.

The number of inhabitants in the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis at the close of 1921 was estimated as follows:—

St. Kitts, 22,644; Nevis, 11,540; Anguilla, 4,219; the birth-rates being St. Kitts 35·03 per thousand, Nevis 30·9 and Anguilla 35·1, while the death-rate for St. Kitts was 36·08 per thousand, for Nevis 27·04, and for Anguilla 16·9. The illegitimate birth-rate for St. Kitts was 25·4 per thousand, for Nevis 20·5, and for Anguilla 16·5, as against the legitimate birth-rate of 9·5, 10·3 and 18·6 for St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla respectively. The mortality of infants under one year of age is high, being 208, 123 and 20 in St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla respectively, but it is much less than last year when it was 322, 173 and 43 respectively.

The Baby Saving League, inaugurated at the close of 1920 by Mrs. Burdon, has done some exceedingly good work in St. Kitts and especially in the Parishes of St. Ann and St. Thomas, where the efforts of the league have met with the greatest sympathy and co-operation of the inhabitants.

It is a matter for regret that it has not yet been found possible to extend the benefits of the League to Nevis.

In Dominica the estimated population at the end of 1921 was 37,355. The births registered during the year numbered 1,456, as against 1,683 in 1920, giving a birth-rate of 39 per thousand. Illegitimate births exceeded the legitimate by 190 (823 as against 633), the percentage of the legitimate and illegitimate births being respectively 43·48 and 56·52. The total number of registered deaths was 1,014, as against 1,124 in 1920, while the death-rate was 27·17 per thousand.

The report on the vital statistics for Montserrat in 1921 shows a population of 12,050 on 31st December, 1921, the births registered being 364, as against 448 in 1920, and showing a birth-rate of 30·2. The legitimate births were 115 and the illegitimate 249, the percentages being 31·6 and 68·4 respectively. The deaths registered were 182, as against 256 in 1920, and the death-rate was 15·1 per thousand, as against 23·24 per thousand in the previous year.

The deaths of children under one year of age were 30, or 16·5 per cent. of the total, as against 23·43 in 1920.

IX. METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Antigua.

The average rainfall was taken at 74 stations. The average annual rainfall for 48 years is 44·36 in., and the rainfall for 1921 was 14·04 in. below the average.

The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 1·96 in. on 24th January, and the lowest temperature for the year (54°) was registered on 5th October.

St. Kitts.

The rainfall at La Guerite Station was 42·03 in. for the year 1921.

Dominica.

The mean rainfall at different stations was :—

15 Leeward Stations	78·15 in.
3 Windward Stations	110·60 „
3 Inland Stations	231·20 „
6 Lasoye Stations	103·89 „

X. POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

British and Foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and the Quebec Steamship Company. The mails are conveyed between Tortola and St. Thomas, and between Tortola and Virgin Gorda, by a launch belonging to the Government, and by private boats, as follows :—

From Tortola to St. Thomas about four times a week, and
from Tortola to Virgin Gorda about six times a month.

There is a fortnightly service by sailing boat between St. Kitts and Anguilla.

Antigua, St. Kitts and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other, the other West Indian Colonies, Europe and America, by the cables of the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company.

There is no communication by telegraph with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands. Messages can, however, be sent to the Virgin Islands by cable via St. Thomas. St. Kitts is in heliographic communication with Nevis.

XI. CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

His Excellency Sir Edward Merewether, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., left the Colony on retirement on 1st August, 1921, and the Honourable Lt.-Col. T. R. St. Johnston, under the dormant commission, assumed the Administration of the Government until 4th December, 1921, when His Excellency Lt.-Col. The Honourable Sir Eustace E. T. W. Fiennes, Bart., arrived in the Colony.

His Honour Major H. W. Peebles, D.S.O., was promoted from Commissioner of the Virgin Islands, to be Commissioner of Montserrat in February, 1922, on the retirement of Mr. C. F. Condell.

ANTIGUA.

The year under review was an unfortunate one for this Presidency financially, as there was an abnormal and sudden drop in the price of sugar, the main industry of the Island, while it was impossible to reduce the cost of administration correspondingly.

The year opened with a surplus balance of £18,690 and closed with a surplus balance of £1,908; but a sum of £5,000 had been placed to a Special Reserve Fund and is not included in the final surplus.

The revenue amounted to £89,149, and the expenditure to £105,931.

Antigua Agricultural Report.

In Antigua the year 1921 was, from an agricultural point of view, less satisfactory than the preceding one. This was due to the low rainfall experienced during the growing months of 1920.

The average rainfall for the calendar year was 30·32 in., or 0·23 in. more than that of 1920. The labour supply was satisfactory though still limited.

In the annual report of the Antigua Sugar Factory for 1921 it is shown that the number of tons made was 8,949, as against 10,638 in 1920, and that the total receipts from sugar and molasses were £228,388, as against £401,218 in 1920. The total expenditure was £210,601, a surplus of £17,788 being thus left for distribution. The average sales price of the sugar manufactured was £26 per ton, and one ton of sugar was obtained from 8·95 tons of cane.

Bendals' Sugar Factory manufactured 1,516 tons of sugar, equal to one ton of sugar from 11·05 tons of cane. The average sales price of the sugar manufactured was £20 per ton, and the expenditure exceeded the revenue by £10,424.

The area planted in cotton during the year 1921-22 was only 535 acres, from which 100 bales (22,976 lb.) clean lint and 3 bales (699 lb.) stained were obtained.

The Pink Bollworm (*Platyedra gossypiella*) was first discovered in Antigua during the year under review. It was found on 21st May, 1921, the infestation being estimated at one-third per cent. Regulations for the control of this pest were enacted and a Cotton Inspector appointed to carry them into effect.

Owing to the early arrival of the annual supply of onion seed, and favourable weather, the season was a comparatively good one. The number of crates shipped being 2,476 as compared with 1,071 in 1920 and 577 in 1919. These results fall far short of the returns for 1916, when 6,940 crates were shipped. The onions are shipped principally through the Antigua Onion Growers' Association—thus uniformity and proper packing are ensured. The planters obtained a total return of 2¼d. per lb. for their onions

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.*

The revenue for 1921-22 was £84,056, a decrease below that for the previous year of £22,694, and a decrease below the estimated revenue of £8,296. This falling off was due to the sudden and severe drop in the price of sugar and cotton and consequently in export duty, which occurred about the beginning of the financial year under report. The actual deficiency in the revenue estimated from export duty was £8,043. There was also a deficiency of £5,115 in the import duties estimated, owing to the reduction of prosperity, and of £2,486 in anticipated receipts from sale of postage stamps. These losses were partly balanced by excess over estimate in import duties on alcoholic liquors, port, harbour, and wharf dues, dog licences, liquor licences and telephone receipts, on all of which the rates were increased during the financial year.

The expenditure during 1921-22 amounted to £102,657, an increase of £11,181 over that for the previous year, but less by £3,068 than the expenditure estimated. The principal causes for the increase over the previous year were the grant of increased bonus to public officers, £2,247, increase in pay of Police, £934, cost of quarantine and campaigns against smallpox and minor epidemics, £1,581, repairs to public works due to storm and other unforeseen causes £1,669, and the construction or commencement of various extraordinary public works which had been authorised before the collapse in price of sugar and consequent financial debacle. The decrease below the expenditure estimated is accounted for by the stoppage of expenditure on the above extraordinary works and by drastic economy in every direction.

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* By Major J. A. Burdon, C.M.G., Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis.

In the report for the year 1920-21 the surplus funds for 31st March, 1921, were given as £34,238. The correct figure should have been £33,088, the error being due to the over credit of £1,250 on account of the Investments Depreciation Fund. This surplus fell during the year 1921-22 to £14,487.

The public debt was reduced during the financial year from £31,327 to £29,702.

The value of imports and exports during the calendar year 1921 fell from £564,117 to £358,219½ and from £768,364 to £377,616 respectively.

Owing to the unfavourable weather conditions of 1920 the sugar crop of 1921 was far below the average, the total export of sugar, equating syrup to muscovado, being 10,592 tons, a decrease of 1,891 on that for the previous year. Of this total 7,885 tons of crystals, 1,648 tons less than in 1920, were produced by the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory.

The good prospects as regards prices with which the year opened were not fulfilled, the export value of the total crop being £267,449 as against £506,947 in 1920. The sudden and heavy fall in price seriously effected the financial position and value of estates. The crisis had to be met towards the end of the year by reduction in wages, which was mitigated by decrease in the price of foodstuffs and was accepted as unavoidable and without trouble.

The weather conditions for the crop to be reaped in 1922 were very unfavourable, the rainfall for 1921, 42 inches, being far below the average.

The area planted in sea island cotton was about 5,500 acres. Owing to bad weather conditions and the presence of Pink Bollworm the yield was not up to the average. The total export of cotton was 747,796 lb., of which a portion was the previously unsold balance of the 1920 crop.

The campaign against the Pink Bollworm was carried out with energy and proved its efficiency by a decrease of the pest in the early stages of the cotton crop.

The Government Cotton Farm was continued, and provided selected and fumigated seed for growers.

The price of cotton suffered a very serious collapse : the value of 747,796 lb. exported in 1921 was only £74,780 as compared with a value of £170,121 for the 663,319 lb. exported in 1920. There was also considerable difficulty in the disposal of the crop. There was no demand in the English market, and a considerable quantity had to be sold in the United States.

The cultivation of coconuts is being gradually extended in Nevis, and now covers about 600 acres, of which about 300 are in bearing; 342,700 nuts, of a value of £1,542, were exported. The price dropped from £8 per 1,000 in 1920 to £4 10s. per 1,000 in 1921.

The cultivation of ground provision was maintained and the supply was plentiful.

There was no serious epidemic amongst stock. Two cases of suspected anthrax occurred in one compound in Basseterre. The area was strictly quarantined. No further cases occurred.

An English thoroughbred sire was imported for the improvement of the local breed of horses.

The total consumption of rum was 25,494 gallons. This was a decrease by 1,682 gallons, or 6 per cent., on the figure for 1920, a surprisingly small drop in view of the fact that the duty was increased from 5s. to 7s. in March and to 9s. in October.

No serious epidemic occurred during 1921. The birth-rate exceeded the death-rate by 2·5 per 1,000, but the total population was estimated to have decreased by 833 owing to emigration.

The rate of infantile mortality showed a welcome decrease on that for the previous year, falling for St. Kitts from 410 to 304 per 1,000 living births, and in Anguilla from 206 to 134. To some extent this was due to the cessation of the previous year's epidemics of measles and whooping cough. But as the fall in Nevis, where the same cessation existed, was only from 413 to 384, the main cause of this decrease in St. Kitts and Anguilla must be assigned to the successful working of the midwifery organisation, and for St. Kitts, of the Baby Saving League. The former did not operate to any appreciable extent in Nevis, and the latter has not been started in that island.

Anguilla, and possibly the Presidency as a whole, was saved, under Almighty Providence, from a serious epidemic of smallpox by the devoted labours of the Medical Officer, Dr. S. B. Jones. This officer, with no adequate quarantine station and very little vaccine lymph, was suddenly confronted with the advent from Santo Domingo of 3 cases of smallpox, which quickly increased to 21 and some 350 contacts. The fact that he prevented an epidemic is sufficient proof of his strenuous exertions, and professional and administrative ability.

Only two cases occurred amongst the population of Anguilla, and these two cases were two women belonging to the families of contacts, *who evaded vaccination.* This fact appears worthy of note. As a precaution, efforts were made throughout the Presidency to secure general voluntary re-vaccination. These efforts did not achieve great success except in Anguilla and amongst school children.

DOMINICA.*

The financial year 1921–22 started with a surplus of £1,545 and closed with a deficit of £4,058. The total revenue for the year was £57,809, being £3,619 under the estimate and £1,410 below the revenue for the year 1920–21.

Almost every item of revenue reflected the depression prevailing in all industrial activities in the Island, customs receipts being £3,162 under the estimate and £5,877 less than the amount collected in 1920-21.

Export duties, however, showed an excess of £246 over the estimate and £639 over the amount collected in 1920-21, due to a revision of the Tariff during the year.

The actual expenditure for the year was £63,414 or £1,820 in excess of the estimate, and £4,846 in excess of the expenditure for the year 1920-21. This was due principally to an increase in the rate of temporary bonus granted to public officers and to an increase in the Presidency's contribution to Federal Services.

The value of imports fell during the calendar year 1921 from £286,168 in 1920 to £211,821, and the value of exports from £231,640 in 1920 to £203,180. This was also due to trade depression consequent on a fall in the prices of the principal products of the Island.

Lime Industry.

The crop shipped during 1921 was a record one, calculated as usual in barrels of a capacity of 4·55 cubic feet; the produce exported represented 516,193 barrels of fruit, or 114,000 barrels over the record output of 1919, when the crop amounted to 402,000 *barrels of limes.*

While the shipments were very satisfactory as regards quantity, the year 1921, owing to the depressed state of the market, was an exceedingly unprofitable one, and it will long be remembered by planters as a very difficult and trying period.

The lime crop for the past five years calculated in barrels of fruit is recorded below:—

1917	396,000
1918	318,000
1919	402,000
1920	369,000
1921	516,000

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* By His Honour R. Nosworthy, Acting Administrator of Dominica.

The following table calculated on the usual basis* shows the disposal of the crop under the following heads :—

Product.	*Barrels of fruit.*	*Approximate percentage of total crop.*
Concentrated juice	341,574	66·2
Raw juice	14,975	2·9
Fresh limes	21,883	4·2
Citrate of lime	137,362	26·6

Comparison with the figures of last year's disposal of crop shows the following changes. The proportion shipped as concentrated juice rose from 62 to 66·2 per cent., and that shipped as raw juice fell from 10 to 2·9 per cent. Fresh limes showed a slight fall from 5 to 4·2 per cent. Citrate of lime continued to improve its position, having risen from 22 to 26·6 per cent. The small business in pickled limes was represented by 399 barrels of fruit. No shipments of lime juice cordial were made during the year.

The planters of Dominica are often reproached by writers and others for their almost complete dependence upon a single industry. But while true that the welfare of the Island depends largely upon a single species of plant, the fact that the fruit of the tree produces no less than eight products, six of which are of importance, is often overlooked. While the lime is grown primarily for the production of citric acid, which is always likely to be the chief product, the industry, to the present, has been stabilised by the development of important lines of business in raw juice, fresh limes, and essential and distilled oils. Thus, as often happened, while the market for one or more products was in a depressed state, other products were selling at satisfactory rates, and what might have been a period of depression was successfully weathered by the existence of these varied conditions.

Viewed in this light, the above percentage table does not make pleasant reading. The gradual falling away, almost to vanishing point, of the trade in raw juice and fresh limes is unfortunate. During 1914, under normal conditions, these two products formed no less than 24 per cent. of the industry, and in 1916, 30 per cent., though the latter figure was due, in some measure, to war conditions. During the year under review, these once flourishing trades formed only 7·1 per cent. of the entire production of limes, while the citric acid trade, as represented by concentrated lime juice and citrate of lime, made up the balance.

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* Fifty gallons of concentrated juice represent 75 barrels of lime fruits ; seven and a half gallons of raw juice represent one barrel of lime fruits ; one ton of citrate of lime is equivalent to 266 barrels of lime fruits.

It will be seen that, while the output of limes is increasing, the tendency is towards the extinction of certain lines of trade in lime products which, in the past, have given a large measure of stability to the lime industry. It is regrettable that, while production is increasing, the general drift should, by force of circumstances, be narrowing in the direction of a single product, that is, a citric acid industry, rather than towards the more desirable and wider basis of business which the interest of planters and the well-being of the planters alike require.

Mention was made in the last progress report of the erection of a factory at the Bath Estate by the firm of L. Rose and Co., Ltd., for the production of citric acid crystals. The plant was completed towards the end of the year, and a small shipment of citric acid, weighing 224 lb. and valued at £10, was made in December. Early in January, 1922, a second shipment of a weight of 8,260 lb. and valued at £415 was effected. Both of these consignments effectually passed the examiners' tests and were favourably reported on.

This is probably the first time that citric acid has been produced on a commercial scale in a British Tropical Colony, and much credit is due to Messrs. L. Rose and Co., Ltd., for their enterprise and achievement.

Another development of interest was the erection of a factory for the production of citrate of lime at Blenheim Estate, one of the properties of Messrs. Rowntree and Co., Ltd. There are now four of these factories in operation in the Island.

The weather conditions were again favourable. The rainfall was below the average and well distributed. High winds were experienced on the night of the 8th and during the 9th of September, but without doing any appreciable damage to agricultural interests.

There was also some improvement in the labour market. The shortage of labour, at one time acute owing to the departure of many able-bodied men for Cuba and other countries, is gradually being overcome and matters in this direction are distinctly improving.

The position of the lime industry during 1921 is recorded in the following table :—

Product.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
Concentrated lime juice	227,716 gallons	£76,854
Raw lime juice ..	112,317 ,,	8,424
Green limes	21,883 barrels	30,566
Pickled limes	399 ,,	419
Citrate of lime ..	10,328 cwt.	38,558
Citric acid	2 ,,	10
Essential oil of limes..	51,524 lb.	6,921
Otto of limes	18,551 ,,	15,056
		£176,808

Cacao.

Following a long way after the lime industry, the value of the several products of which amounted to the considerable sum of £176,808, is the comparatively small business in cacao. Of this product 6,764 cwt. of a value of £12,628 were shipped, this amount being a little more than half of the average export during the early years of this century. There is no doubt that the hurricanes of 1915 and 1916 dealt a severe blow to cacao cultivation from which it has not recovered, and, since those dates, there has been little encouragement to growers for renewed action in this respect owing to low market prices and the very uncertain future, due to rapid development of planting and the enormous output of this product from the British West African Colonies.

Coconuts.

Another industry of considerable promise is the production of coconuts. In 1920, a year of high prices for this product, the number exported was 706,979 of a value of £7,364. During the year under review nuts to the number of 299,787 and of the value of £2,505 were exported. This considerable falling away was in all probability due to low prices, but the exports during 1920 show clearly the possibilities in this direction.

The coconut, like cacao, is also a food product of which there is a considerable local consumption. It is highly probable that the annual output is in the region of the million mark. With capital and energy there is no reason why in the course of time several millions of nuts should not be produced yearly, and a minor gradually turned into a major industry.

The revision of the Customs Tariff was made during the year by Ordinance No. 6 of 1921, so as to give effect to the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement signed at Ottawa on 18th June, 1920.

The opportunity was taken to revise the Import and Export Tariffs generally, the duties in certain cases being increased so as to provide additional revenue.

The excise duty on rum was increased by 10d. a proof gallon by Ordinance No. 7 of 1921.

Eleven Ordinances were passed during the year 1921, the only one of importance, beyond those above mentioned, being No. 8 of 1921, amending the Trade and Revenue Act, 1894, and dealing with the mode of ascertaining and assessing *ad valorem* duties and other cognate matters.

The Presidency was visited from the 5th to the 8th January, 1922, by the Honourable E. F. L. Wood, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, together with Mr. W. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., and Mr. R. A. Wiseman of the Colonial Office, in the course of their official tour through the West Indies.

Mr. Wood received various deputations, chiefly on the subject of desired changes in the constitution of the Legislature and the withdrawal of Dominica from the Leeward Islands Federation.

The 28th February, 1922, was observed as a Public Holiday in common with other parts of the Colony, in honour of the marriage of Her Royal Highness Princess Mary and Viscount Lascelles; and was the occasion of manifestations of loyal devotion and attachment to His Majesty's Person and Throne, which are inherent in the population of this Island as in all the West Indian Colonies.

The hurricane which passed over some of the more southerly islands on 9th September, 1921, fortunately did not strike this island, but considerable damage was done by heavy seas to the jetties at Roseau and Portsmouth.

In this connexion a curious discovery of gold coins was made by divers off the Bell jetty, shortly after the occurrence of the heavy seas, the coins being Portuguese currency dated 1767 and supposed to be parts of the contents of a chest of £40,000 of Portuguese gold, which was dropped overboard from a vessel called the "Two Sisters" of Bristol, over a hundred years ago. It is surmised that the rough seas dislodged the coins from the ocean bed and washed them nearer the shore. Only about a hundred coins were, however, found.

The year under review was marked by general trade depression, the prices of the produce of the Island having fallen considerably. Several European settlers left the Island, and many estates were in the market.

MONTSERRAT.

The revenue for the year 1921-22 was £17,043, a decrease of £2,579 on that of 1920–21 (£19,622); the expenditure was £24,066, an increase of £2,323 on that of 1920-21 (£21,743). The excess of expenditure, £24,066, over revenue, £17,043, was £7,023.

The surplus, or excess of assets over liabilities, at the end of the financial year 1921–22 (i.e., on 31st March, 1922) was £2,6[illegible], as against £9,827 at the end of the previous financial year.

The trade returns for the calendar year 1921 amounted to £111,441, the value of imports being £68,350 and of exports £43,091, as against £111,643 and £207,892 respectively in 1920.

The direction of trade was as follows:—

	Imports.	*Exports.*
United Kingdom ..	£59,212	£5,736
British North America ..	1,937	13,689
Foreign Countries ..	1,146	14,239
Inter-Presidential ..	6,055	9,427
	£68,350	£43,091

The shipment of cotton lint was 1,215 bales, giving a net weight of 460,247 lb., of an estimated total value of £49,024, a decrease of 94,728 lb., as compared with 1920 (554,975); 439 tons of cotton seed, of the estimated value of £3,688, were also exported.

The cotton crop yield for the last four seasons has been :—

1918–19	438,222 lb.
1919–20	538,334 „
1920–21	395,035 „
1921–22	367,159 „

The other agricultural industries remained, in comparison, unimportant. The export of raw lime juice shows a decrease from 81,277 gallons of an estimated value of £8,648 in 1920 to 67,620 gallons of an estimated value of £3,562 in 1921; citrate of lime also was exported to a total estimated value of £1,760, as compared with £2,734 in 1920. Only 31 tons, of the value of about £7,000, of muscovado sugar were exported. There is a small but growing bay oil industry, and the export of papaine was 1,316 lb., value £878, as compared with 821 lb., value £602, in 1920.

The total tonnage of shipping entered and cleared in 1920–21 was 332,712 tons, steamers 319,330 tons and sailing vessels 13,382 tons, the former being chiefly due to the fortnightly calls of the R.M.S.P. Company's steamers running between Canada and British Guiana. Direct passenger communication has practically ceased since the War. There is no direct communication with the United States of America.

The population of the Presidency in 1921 was 12,120. The normal increase in the population is counterbalanced by the constant stream of emigration to the United States, Canada, Cuba, and St. Domingo.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.*

The period of normal prosperity which the Presidency had enjoyed during the past few years reached its maximum in 1920. Towards the end of 1921 market prices fell; in consequence, there was a reduction in the value of imports and exports.

Financial.

The estimated revenue for 1921-22 was £9,566. The actual revenue to 31st March, 1922, reached £12,553 12s. 7d., showing an excess of revenue over the estimates of £2,987 12s. 7d.

The estimated expenditure was £8,586. The actual expenditure was £7,319 4s. 10½d. This shows a drop of £1,266 15s. 2d., which was chiefly due to the fact that there was no 1921-22 cotton crop to purchase.

---

* By F. C. Clarkson, Acting Commissioner of the Virgin Islands.

The excess of actual revenue over expenditure amounted to £5,234 7s. 8d. which, with the opening surplus of £8,072 19s. 11d. at the beginning of the financial year, brought the surplus of the Presidency up to £13,307 7s. 7d. at the end of March, 1922.

Customs duties under Head I reached £5,323 14s. 5d. against an estimated amount of £2,780.

Port and Harbour dues amounted to £79 6s. 6d., an excess of £29 6s. 6d. over estimates.

Internal revenue from licences and taxes exceeded the estimated amount by £61 18s. 0d., and revenue under Head 5, "Post Office," exceeded the estimated amount by over £268.

The revenue derived from agricultural produce sold was approximately £182 in excess of the estimated amount.

Imports and Exports.

The total value of imports during the year amounted to £32,562, as against £45,413 in 1920, being a decrease of £10,951. This large decrease in value is not only due to lesser imports but also to steady deflation in the prices of several articles. The principal decreases appear under "Drink and Tobacco."

The total value of exports during the year amounted to £20,376, as against £24,102 in 1921, showing a decrease of £3,726. This was principally due to reduced prices obtained at St. Thomas—the only market for Tortola products.

Shipping.

The total tonnage of shipping, inwards and outwards, during the year was 14,987.

Education.

The number of Elementary schools in the Presidency in the year under review was seven, distributed as follows:—

Tortola.. ..	4	Jost Van Dykes ..	1
Anegada ..	1	Virgin Gorda ..	1

The number of children enrolled was 515 boys, 431 girls, total 946, with an average attendance of 539.

The attendance at the schools was good throughout the year. There were 48 prosecutions under the Education Ordinance. Admissions during the year reached 260, the highest recorded for three past years. Marked improvement in discipline and organisation was evidenced in the schools.

The total expenditure, inclusive of the salary of the Departmental Officer, was £302 5s. 9d. The schools were regularly visited during the year by the Education District Officer.

The Inspector of Schools visited the Presidency during May, and the usual annual examinations were held in all the schools. There was no epidemic in the Presidency and the health of the children was good throughout the year. There are no continuation schools. The children who reach the higher standard are sufficiently intelligent to benefit by vocational training and would make excellent material for industrial courses.

Medical.

Except for a few cases of measles towards the end of the year, the health of the Presidency was remarkably good. There was no occasion for quarantine measures.

Agriculture.

The agricultural position of the Presidency during the period under review, when judged from the list showing the chief exports, shows a slight decline. This was due to the fact, that in order to protect the Presidency's chief industry—cotton—from further depredations of Pink Bollworm, a close season was declared and no cotton was produced for shipment. The position of the peasantry at this time was, however, so sound as to enable them to tide themselves over the depressed period without any serious hardships or discontent. The agricultural classes of the Virgin Islands enjoyed the usual prosperity from the raising of live stock, and the growing of food crops for the St. Thomas market. These were produced in greater quantities than in any previous year.

There was, however, a surplus amount of stock raised in the Presidency during the year, which still calls for a market.

The increased production of fresh vegetables proved highly remunerative to growers—such crops as sweet potatoes, tannias, bananas, onions, peas and beans were regularly shipped to St. Thomas, and the export for the year showed a satisfactory increase.

The rainfall for the year was poor and badly distributed, amounting to 47·13 inches.

General.

Vegetables, fruits, eggs, poultry and cattle from Tortola and out-lying islands have, up to recently, enjoyed a ready sale in St. Thomas; in fact, that market has been the mainstay of the Presidency. Unfortunately, the demand is decreasing rapidly, firstly because of the dwindling number of steamers calling at that port, and secondly because the officials of St. Thomas purchase their vegetables through the Commissariat run by their Government; it is to be hoped that the demand for Tortola produce will not drop any lower. At present Tortola enjoys free trade with the American Virgin Islands, which is some slight compensation for the Presidency whose import trade is practically all done with the U.S.A.: this is unavoidable owing to the lack of direct communication with Canada or the United Kingdom.

Cost of Living: This is gradually coming down owing to the fact that merchants have to offer their goods at reasonable prices to ensure a sale. The inhabitants are becoming less independent as business decreases with St. Thomas, and are willing to work for a reasonable wage.

The price of unskilled labour is 1s. to 2s. 3d. per day for men, and 1s. to 1s. 3d. for women. Carpenters and masons can make from 7s. to 15s. owing to the shortage of skilled artisans: so many go to Porto Rico, Santo Domingo, and America.

Improvements: During the year considerable work has been carried out on the roads and tracks. A small Cottage Hospital is being completed. This is erected principally from privately collected money: the Government giving the site.

Administration: On 26th June, His Honour Major H. W. Peebles, Commissioner, left the Presidency for six months' vacation in England and the Government was administered by Dr. J. Y. MacFadyen. On 4th March, Major Peebles left for Montserrat to act as Commissioner of that Presidency. On his departure Dr. MacFadyen assumed the Administration pending the arrival of Mr. F. C. Clarkson, appointed to act.

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1135	Trinidad and Tobago	1921
1136	British Honduras	,,
1137	Ceylon	,,
1138	Swaziland	,,
1139	Hongkong	,,
1140	Straits Settlements	,,
1141	St. Lucia	,,
1142	Ashanti	,,
1143	Jamaica	,,
1144	Falkland Islands	1920
1145	Bahamas	1921–1922
1146	Seychelles	1921
1147	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
1148	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1921–1922
1149	Mauritius	1921
1150	Sierra Leone	,,
1151	Uganda	,,
1152	Somaliland	,,
1153	Kenya Colony and Protectorate (April-December)	,,
1154	Gold Coast	,,
1155	Nigeria	1922
1156	Nyasaland	1921
1157	Falkland Islands	,,
1158	Weihaiwei	1922
1159	Cyprus	,,
1160	Gambia	,,
1161	New Hebrides	1921 and 1922
1162	Nyasaland	1922
1163	Zanzibar	,,
1164	St. Helena	,,
1165	Sierra Leone	,,
1166	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
1167	Bermuda	,,
1168	Grenada	,,
1169	St. Lucia	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1195.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1922–23.

(For Report for 1921–22 see No. 1170.)

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No. 1195.

LEEWARD ISLANDS

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1922–23.

The Leeward Islands form the most northerly group of the "Lesser Antilles" in the West Indies, and lie between 18° 27′ and 15° 10′. The Colony is now a Federation, comprising the five "Presidencies"—formerly separate colonies—of Antigua, St. Christopher (usually called St. Kitts), with which Presidency is included Nevis, Dominica, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands.

The governments of the first three Presidencies are each administered by an "Administrator," while officers in charge of the two smaller Presidencies of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands have the title of "Commissioner." All the Presidencies form together one colony under a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who is resident at Antigua, the headquarters of the Colony. When the Governor is visiting other Presidencies the Colonial Secretary assumes, under a dormant commission, the office of Administrator of Antigua; and, similarly, when the Governor is away from the Colony the Colonial Secretary assumes the administration of the government of the whole Colony.

Councils.—There is an Executive and a Legislative Council for the Colony, and also separate Executive and Legislative Councils for each of the four larger Presidencies, the Virgin Islands having only an Executive Council.

The Legislative Council of the Colony consists of nine official and nine elective members, three of the elective members being chosen by the unofficial members of the Antigua Legislative Council, three by those of St. Kitts, two by those of Dominica, and one by those of Montserrat.

I. FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year 1922–23 was £250,417 18*s.* 6*d.*, made up as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Antigua	76,434	19	6½
St. Kitts-Nevis	88,129	0	2½
Dominica	58,315	11	10½
Montserrat	18,096	19	9
Virgin Islands	9,441	7	1½
	£250,417	18	6

showing a decrease of £10,253 in comparison with the revenue of the previous year.

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Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year 1922–23 was £272,270 12*s*. 6½*d*., made up as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Antigua	101,123	11	4
St. Kitts-Nevis	88,015	6	7½
Dominica	57,958	17	3
Montserrat	17,016	10	9
Virgin Islands	8,156	6	7
	£272,270	12	6½

showing a decrease of £31,305 in comparison with the expenditure of the previous year. Of the total expenditure for Antigua, £13,655 was spent on loan account.

The excess of assets over liabilities of £13,107 8*s*. 7½*d*. on the 31st March, 1923, was made up as follows :—

Presidency.	*Assets.*			*Liabilities.*		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Antigua	—			9,125	15	7
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	7,600	15	0½	—		
Dominica	—			3,702	5	2
Montserrat ..	3,742	6	2	—		
Virgin Islands ..	14,592	8	2	—		
Total ..	25,935	9	4½	12,828	0	9
Excess of Assets ..	—			13,107	8	7½
	£25,935	9	4½	£25,935	9	4½

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounted to £278,240 on 31st March, 1923.

The following table shows the amount of loans raised and the amounts standing to the credit of sinking funds on 31st March, 1923 :—

Presidency.	*Total amount of loan raised.*	*Amount to credit of sinking fund.*
	£	£
Antigua	142,890	68,723
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	59,250	31,599
Dominica	65,000	38,527
Montserrat	11,100	5,680
	£278,240	£144,529

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II. IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND SHIPPING.

Imports.

The total value of the imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1922 amounted to £754,359, as against £1,059,312 in 1921, being a decrease of £304,943.

Exports.

The total value of the exports for the year 1922 was £713,231, as against £970,694 in 1921, being a decrease of £257,463.

Shipping.

Total tonnage of shipping entered and cleared :—

	1921.	1922.
Antigua	635,183	723,697
St. Kitts-Nevis	692,342	789,421
Dominica	590,909	759,447
Montserrat	332,712	388,929
Virgin Islands	15,669	15,276

III. LEGISLATION.

Twenty-two Federal Acts and seventy-one Presidential Ordinances were passed during the year 1922.

IV. EDUCATION.

(A) *Elementary.*

The number of elementary schools in the Colony during the year under review was 101, distributed as follows :—

Presidency.	*Government.*	*State-aided.*	*Total.*
1. Antigua Barbuda	18	2	20
2. St. Kitts	16	2	18
Nevis	10	—	10
Anguilla	5	—	5
3. Dominica	23	3	26
4. Montserrat	—	13	13
5. Virgin Islands	—	9	9
Total			101

The numbers enrolled and in average attendance were :—

Whole Colony.	*1921–22.*	*1922–23.*
Number on roll	23,277	23,591
Average attendance ..	12,412	13,047

The total expenditure in the primary schools, exclusive of salaries of the departmental officers and of establishment charges, was £15,094 8*s.* 1½*d.*, against £14,259 11*s.* 2½*d.* in the previous year.

(B) *Secondary.*

The following is a list of the secondary schools in the Colony, with their respective grants :—

School.	*Grants.* £	*s.*	*d.*
1. Antigua Grammar School	583	0	0
2. Antigua Girls' High School ..	200	0	0
3. Dominica Grammar School ..	591	0	0
4. St. Kitts-Nevis Grammar School ..	640	0	0
5. Girls' High School, St. Kitts ..	93	15	0
6. Excelsior School, Nevis	50	0	0
7. Thomas Oliver Robinson Memorial School, Antigua	50	0	0
8. Spring Gardens Female Teachers Training College, Antigua ..	240	0	0

The primary schools in Antigua, Dominica, and St. Kitts-Nevis are all under direct Government control, and are managed by a Sub-Inspector of Schools in each Presidency.

¶In Montserrat and the Virgin Islands they are, with one exception, denominational, and are managed by the clergy of the various denominations. The schools are examined annually by the Inspector of Schools, and grants are awarded on the result of this examination. The pupil teacher system is in vogue, the period of service being three years. Studentships are awarded to specially selected candidates at the conclusion of their pupil teachership for two years to complete their training as assistant teachers. Those for girls are held at the Spring Gardens Female Teachers Training College, Antigua, and those for boys at the Rawle Training Institute, Codrington College, Barbados.

V. GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

There is a Central Lunatic Asylum at Skerrets, Antigua, and two Leper Asylums in the Colony, one at Rat Island, Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles, St. Kitts.

VI. JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Prisoners sentenced to six months' imprisonment are sent to the Common Prison of the Leeward Islands, in Antigua, and immediately before the expiration of their sentence are returned to the Presidencies from which they were committed. In 1922–23 five prisoners were transferred to the Central Prison, one being sent from St. Kitts-Nevis, and two each from Dominica and Montserrat.

The expenditure on the Central Prison was £3,612 12*s*. 0*d*. and the receipts £1,831 13*s*. 5*d*., the cost per head to Antigua being £25 1*s*. 8*d*.

The daily average number of prisoners was 71.

One male prisoner died in the Hospital from natural causes.

Comparative table of criminal statistics for 1921–22 :—

	1921.	1922.
Cases reported to the Police	5,882	5,085
Number of cases brought before the Magisterial Courts	18,679	15,626
Summary convictions ..	12,279	9,933
Indictments in the Superior Courts	54	54
Convictions in the Superior Courts	32	20

St. John's Training School.

The St. John's Training School was established under the provisions of the Leeward Islands Act No. 4 of 1891, for the reformation, education and training of boys under 18 years of age.

On the 1st April, 1922, there were 59 boys at the school. During the year 12 boys were received (nine from Antigua and three from St. Kitts-Nevis). Sixteen boys were discharged during the year, leaving 55 in the school on 31st March, 1923. The daily average was 59. The expenditure was £1,023 17*s*. 10*d*. and the receipts £540 0*s*. 5*d*., the cost per head to Antigua being £17 7*s*. 1*d*. The health of the school was good. The boys were employed in agricultural and garden work in addition to the ordinary work of the school.

VII. POLICE.

The actual strength of the Force on 31st December, 1922, was 6 officers and 151 non-commissioned officers and men, whereas the authorised establishment as provided for in the Estimates was 6 officers and 169 non-commissioned officers and men. The Force was therefore 18 men under strength on 31st December, 1922.

Thirty-nine men were enlisted to fill vacancies, an increase of ten on the figures for the previous year. After a long period of stagnation in recruiting, the effect of the increases in pay and allowances granted to non-commissioned officers and men as from the 1st June, 1921, began to be felt, and candidates for the Force were forthcoming. More careful selection became possible, and for every man selected at least four were rejected on grounds of medical unfitness, character, or deficiency in education or intelligence.

VIII. VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Colony, according to the Census of 1921, was 122,[illegible]42, showing a decrease of 4,951 when compared with the Census of 1911.

Antigua.

In Antigua the estimated population on the 31st December, 1922, was 29,512. The number of marriages registered in the Presidency in 1922 was 74, as against 93 in 1921, while the births were 1,099, being 37·24 per thousand. The legitimate births were 250 and the illegitimate births 849, the percentages being 22·75 and 77·25 respectively. The deaths during the year numbered 989, which gives a death-rate of 33·51 per thousand. The deaths of children under one year, exclusive of 99 still-births, were 246, or 24·87 per cent of the total.

At the time of writing a Committee of Enquiry is sitting concerning the question of infantile mortality in the Colony.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

In respect of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis, the number of inhabitants at the close of 1922 was estimated as follows :—

St. Kitts 21,650, Nevis 11,854, Anguilla 4,362 ; the birth-rates being St. Kitts 39·8 per thousand, Nevis 37·5 and Anguilla 33·2, while the death-rate for St. Kitts was 33·8 per thousand, for Nevis 20·4, and for Anguilla 18·3. The illegitimate birth-rate for St. Kitts was 30·6 per thousand, for Nevis 25·3, and for Anguilla 16·9, as against the legitimate birth-rate of 9·2, 12·1, and 16·2 for St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla respectively. The mortality of infants under one year of age is high, being 199, 72 and 20 in St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla respectively.

Dominica.

In Dominica the estimated population at the end of 1922 was 38,108. The births registered during the year numbered 1,518, as against 1,456 in 1921, giving a birth-rate of 39·83 per thousand. Illegitimate births exceeded the legitimate by 230 (874 as against 644), the percentage of legitimate and illegitimate births being respectively 42·44 and 57·56. The total number of registered deaths was 1,193, as against 1,014 in the previous year, while the death-rate was 31·11 per thousand. Of the deaths in 1922, 513 were of children under five years of age. There were 92 still-births during the year.

Montserrat.

The report on the vital statistics for Montserrat in 1922 shows a population of 11,957 on the 31st December, 1922 ; the births registered being 403, as against 364 in 1921, and showing a birth-rate of 34·5. The legitimate births were 130, the illegitimate 273, the percentages being 32·3 and 67·7 respectively. The deaths registered were 263, as against 182 in 1921, and the death-rate was 21·9 per thousand, as against 15·1 per thousand in the previous year.

The deaths of children under one year of age were 58. or 22 per cent. of the total, as against 16·5 in 1921.

The general health of the Colony during the year was satisfactory, and although epidemics of Alastrim existed in Dominica from July, 1922, to August, 1923, and in Antigua from 22nd January, 1923, to 6th April, 1923, the disease was of a comparatively mild type, no deaths occurring in Antigua and only six in Dominica. Thorough vaccination took place throughout the whole Colony, and it is improbable that a similar invasion will occur for a long time to come.

IX. METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Antigua.

The average rainfall was taken at seventy stations. The average rainfall for 49 years is 44·18 inches, and the rainfall for 1922 was 35·14 inches, or 9·04 below the average.

The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 2·16 inches on 15th September, and the lowest temperature for the year (66°) was registered on the 29th March, 1922.

St. Kitts.

The rainfall at La Guerite station was 39·74 inches for the year 1922.

Dominica.

The mean rainfall at different stations was :—

	Inches.
14 Leeward Stations	76·31
3 Windward Stations	115·49
4 Inland Stations	211·51
5 Lasoye Stations	97·24

X. POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and the Quebec Steamship Company. The mails are conveyed between Tortola and St. Thomas and between Tortola and Virgin Gorda by a launch belonging to the Government and by private boats, as follows :—

From Tortola to St. Thomas about four times a week.

From Tortola to Virgin Gorda about six times a month.

There is a fortnightly service by sailing boat between St. Kitts and Anguilla.

Antigua, St. Kitts and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other, the other West Indian Colonies, and Europe and America, by the cables of the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company.

There is no communication by telegraph with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands. Messages can, however, be sent to the Virgin Islands by cable via St. Thomas. St. Kitts is in heliographic communication with Nevis.

XI. Civil Establishment.

Mr. E. D'A. Tibbits acted as Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands from the 18th April to the 20th July, 1922, during the absence on leave of Lieut.-Colonel T. R. St. Johnston, C.M.G.

Major H. W. Peebles, D.S.O., Commissioner of the Virgin Islands, was appointed to act as Commissioner of Montserrat on the 14th March, 1922, during the absence on leave of Mr. C. F. Condell, and was subsequently confirmed in the appointment.

Mr. W. M. Wigley, Crown Attorney and Magistrate of District "C," St. Kitts, acted as Administrator of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis from the 18th April to the 6th August, 1922, during the absence on leave of Major J. A. Burdon, C.M.G.

Mr. Robert Walter, C.M.G., Administrator of Dominica, was granted nine months' leave of absence from the 12th July, 1922, and was subsequently appointed Administrator of St. Vincent.

Mr. Richard Nosworthy, Treasurer of Jamaica, acted as Administrator of Dominica from the 12th July, 1922, to the 19th March, 1923.

Mr. W. P. Michelin, First Puisne Judge, acted as Chief Justice from the 4th December, 1922, to the 18th March, 1923, during the absence on leave of His Honour Sir A. K. Young, who was appointed Chief Justice of Fiji.

ANTIGUA.

During the financial year under review two Public Works Local Loan Ordinances were passed; Ordinance No. 15 of 1922 to raise £20,000 for new water and road works, and also to purchase a building for the new Telephone Exchange; and Ordinance No. 4 of 1923 to raise £6,000 for additional water improvements, and also to refit the Government steam launch. These various public works were not completed during the year, and are still proceeding, but the ultimate benefit to the island will be very great indeed.

Antigua Agricultural Report.

The weather conditions which prevailed during the year 1922 were again most unsatisfactory owing to the continued drought which was one of the longest ever experienced in the island of Antigua, it being the third year in succession without heavy rains.

As regards the sugar industry the year was one of the most trying planters have ever experienced. The canes were considered the poorest Antigua could produce and the yield of sugar from the canes was about 10 per cent. below the average.

Good rains were, however, experienced towards the end of the year and the outlook for 1923 is somewhat brighter.

The average rainfall for the calendar year was 41·21 inches.

The number of tons of sugar manufactured by the Antigua Sugar Factory was 8,220 as compared with 8,949 tons the previous year, and the total receipts were £120,678, as against £228,388 in 1921. The total expenditure was £142,022, thus showing a loss of over £13,000. The average sale price for sugar was £16 per ton.

The Bendals Sugar Factory also lost on the year's working, the expenditure exceeding the receipts by £4,206.

1,417 tons of sugar were made, for which the average sale price was £17 per ton.

The area planted under Sea Island cotton continues to decrease owing to the impossibility of finding a ready market for this commodity. Only 396 acres were planted during the year, principally by peasants, several large growers having given up the growing of this crop.

148,128 lb. of onions were received by the Onions Growers' Association and over 2,000 crates were exported, for which fair prices were realised.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

Notes by His Honour Major J. A. Burdon, C.M.G.

The revenue for 1922–23 was £88,129, giving an increase over that for the previous year of £4,073 and an excess over the revenue estimated of £5,609. These results were due principally to the sale of the Tercentenary stamps and partly to unanticipated receipts from Income Tax and Trade Licences.

The passage of the Ordinance imposing an Income Tax aroused considerable hostility. Advantage was taken of the presence of the Somerset House Income Tax expert, employed in the West Indies by the Colonial Office, to revise the Ordinance which has since been passed in amended form without opposition. The proceeds during the first year of operation cannot be considered satisfactory, even though higher than the estimate. No doubt there will be improvement as the Income Tax Commissioners become better acquainted with the nature of their duties.

The expenditure amounted to £88,015, being a decrease on that for the previous year by £14,642, but an excess over the expenditure estimated of £5,840. The decrease on the previous year was due to general retrenchment, principally in Extraordinary Public and Sanitary Works, withdrawal of bonus to public officers, and reduction of cost of institutions made possible by reduction in prices. The excess over the estimate was due to expenditure authorised during the year on various services, the principal of which were restoration and refurnishing of old Government House, £1,115; additions and alterations in the

Alexandra and Pogson Hospitals, £971; Tercentenary expenses and costs of stamps, £861; Quarantine station, Anguilla, £248; Anthrax campaign, £337; and Anguilla Hurricane relief, £200.

The Reserve Fund and Investments Depreciation Fund remained at £7,000 and £1,250 respectively during the year; the remaining surplus funds increased from £6,237 on 31st March, 1922, to £7,601 on 31st March, 1923.

The Public Debt was reduced during the year from £29,702 to £27,651.

Taking into consideration the pecuniary straits and depression which existed and the poor crops due to adverse weather conditions, the measure of recovery must be regarded as satisfactory even though won at the cost of sanitary and other progress. Certain improvements, however, were effected during the year, the principal of which were:—

> The restoration and refurnishing of Old Government House as a residence for His Excellency the Governor on his visits to the Presidency.
>
> The provision of long desired Nurses Quarters and Paying Patients' Wards in the Alexandra Hospital, Nevis, the former of which have improved the efficiency and morale of the nurses.
>
> The provision of a recreation ground and of a rum and tobacco ration (contingent on good behaviour) for the Leper Asylum. These privileges have had a marked effect on contentment and discipline.
>
> A long needed important sanitary and æsthetic improvement on the Basseterre sea front.
>
> The provision of a Quarantine Station in Anguilla to meet the danger of importation of smallpox from Santo Domingo.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The value of imports and exports during the calendar year 1922 fell from £358,219½ to £274,529, and from £377,616 to £182,827, respectively.

Owing to the very unfavourable weather conditions of 1921 the 1922 sugar crop was again far below the average. The total crop, equating syrup to muscovado, was 9,648 tons, a drop of 944 tons on the figure for the previous year. The factory produced 8,426 tons of crystals, an increase of 541 tons on its output for 1921.

The very serious fall in sugar prices, from £27 in 1921 to £16 in 1922, is reflected in the total value of sugar products exported. In the year under report this amounted to £155,901 as against £267,449 in 1921. The rise in prices during 1922 came too late or the crop of that year.

The weather conditions for the crop to be reaped in 1923 were again very unfavourable, the average rainfall in St. Kitts during 1922 being only 45 inches, about 15 inches below the usual average.

Towards the close of the year the Basseterre Sugar Factory extended its rail and sea haulage to deal with the whole cane crop of St. Kitts. Scientific methods will henceforward greatly increase the amount of sugar extracted from the cane of the northern estates, hitherto dealt with by obsolete processes, and will increase the bulk and value of the sugar export accordingly.

The area planted in sea island cotton was reduced, owing to the slump in cotton prices and difficulty in marketing of lint, from 5,500 acres in 1921 to 3,200 acres. The weather conditions were bad for the cotton crop—in Anguilla, very bad indeed. The outlook for the cotton industry in that island is very gloomy. The export of cotton fell from 747,796 lb., value £74,780, to 232,877 lb., value £19,406. The Pink Bollworm did great damage in the later stages of the crop. The campaign against this pest is stringently carried on, and with results better than had been anticipated.

The Government Cotton Farm was continued, but its return was small owing to unfavourable weather and the Pink Bollworm. Valuable work was done, however, in the provision of hand-selected fumigated seed and in plant selection.

The cultivation of coconuts in Nevis is steadily extending, and now covers between 700 and 800 acres, about half of which are bearing. The number of nuts exported increased in 1922 to 376,994, value £1,885, the average price being about £5 per 1,000. New groves of coconuts were planted in Anguilla and are doing well, but plots suitable are too few and too small for this form of cultivation to provide a staple product for the island.

An experiment was initiated during the year in the growing of tobacco on a commercial scale. Small areas were planted on the Government Cotton Farm and a neighbouring estate under the direction of an expert obtained from Jamaica. The experiment gave promise of success and is being continued for another year.

The cultivation of ground provisions was maintained and the supply was fairly plentiful

An outbreak of anthrax occurred in Nevis during the latter half of the year. Quarantine and other measures were adopted which succeeded in confining the disease to Nevis and in bringing the outbreak to an end early in 1923.

The total consumption of rum amounted to 20,193 proof gallons, a drop of 5,300 gallons, or 21 per cent. on the figure for 1921. This decrease reflects the general depression and fall in wages, but the amount consumed was still 818 gallons in excess of the figure for 1917 in spite of the increase of 4*s*. per gallon in duty and excise which has occurred since that year.

No epidemic disease occurred during the year. Smallpox was kept out of this Presidency, and particularly out of Anguilla, by stringent quarantine precautions and the unceasing vigilance of the various port authorities.

The birth-rate exceeded the death-rate during 1922 by 10·6 per 1,000, an improvement on the figure for the previous year.

The population increased by 296 despite loss by emigration.

The decrease in the infantile mortality rate reported in 1921 has progressed still further during 1922, the rate for the Presidency being 218 per thousand during the latter year as compared with 304 for the former. In the Presidency as a whole the credit for this welcome improvement must be assigned to the successful work of the Midwifery Board, and, for St. Kitts in particular, also to the Baby Saving League working in close co-operation with that Board. The proof of the value of the work done by the Baby Saving League is the extraordinary decrease in the infantile mortality rate which has occurred during its two years of work in the two parishes, St. George and St. Anne, in which the greatest Infant Welfare effort has been made. In these two parishes the rates have fallen from 366 and 511, respectively, for 1920, to 192 and 228 per thousand for 1922.

Anguilla suffered great hardship during the year, at first from food shortage almost amounting to famine, the cumulative result of three years of drought, and during the last quarter from the effects of the hurricane of 16th September which, leaving the rest of the Presidency untouched, wrought great havoc in this outlying island. Assistance in money and kind were provided by the Government and most generously contributed by the general public of St. Kitts and Nevis. The disaster was bravely met by the Anguillans and their Magistrate, Dr. S. B. Jones, and brought out the admirable sturdiness of character of all concerned.

DOMINICA.

Notes by His Honour E. C. Eliot, Esquire.

The financial year 1922–23 started with a deficit of £4,058, and closed with a deficit of £3,702.

The total revenue for the year was £58,315, being £200 over the estimate, and £506 over the revenue for the year 1921–22.

The noticeable excesses in revenue were as follows :—

	£
Import duty other than alcoholic liquors	535
(Due to revision of customs tariff)	
Export duties	307
Income tax	432
Sale of postage stamps	1,647
(Due to new issues of stamps)	
Telephone and electric light receipts	267

The noticeable decreases were as follows :—

Import duty on alcoholic liquors ..	609
Excise duty	1,228
Liquor and still licences	465

The falling off in these items of revenue may be to some extent attributed to a diminution in the local consumption of rum, and to the fact that the anticipated increase in the local manufacture of that article, through the measure of protection afforded by an increase in the import duty, was not materialised.

Botanic Gardens receipts	£297

(Due to reduction in price of produce)

The actual expenditure for the year was £57,958, or £215 in excess of the estimate, and £5,456 below the expenditure for the year 1921–22.

This decrease was largely due to reduction in the expenses of maintenance of various departments and also to the abolition of temporary bonuses to Government officials.

The value of imports fell during the year under review from £211,821 in 1921 to £157,784, and the value of exports fell from £207,783 in 1921 to £163,867 in 1922.

This was due in the case of imports to a reduction in the purchasing power of the population consequent upon trade depression and to falling value of imported goods.

In the case of exports the reduction in receipts was due to a falling off in the prices of produce. The effects of the "Withertip" disease of limes, which at the time of writing is causing grave concern, had not become a factor as regards the returns for the period under review.

The following revisions of Ordinances affecting the liquor trade were passed during the year :—

No. 3 of 1922, shortly entitled "The Liquor Licence Acts and Ordinances, 1888 to 1922."

No. 10 of 1922, shortly entitled "The Customs Import and Export Tariff Ordinance, 1921, Amendment Ordinance, 1922, increasing the Import Duty on Rum and Bay Rum."

No. 11 of 1922, to increase the Excise Duty on Rum.

It is feared that the effect of these Ordinances as revenue-producing measures has failed in the object in view, and action is now being taken to revise the tariff, excise and licences so as to encourage legitimate trade.

THE CHIEF INDUSTRY—LIME JUICE PRODUCTS.

The crop shipped during 1922 was an average one. Calculated as usual in barrels of a capacity of 4·55 cubic feet, the produce exported represented 399,297 barrels of fruit.

The lime crop for the past five years, calculated in barrels of fruit, is recorded below :—

1918	318,000
1919	402,000
1920	369,000
1921	516,000
1922	400,000

The following table, calculated on the usual basis, shows the disposal of the crop under the following heads :—

Products.	*Barrels of fruit.*	*Approximate percentage of total crop.*
Concentrated juice	243,333	60·9
Raw juice	38,237	9·6
Fresh limes	24,389	6·1
Citrate of lime	85,785	21·5
Citric acid	6,940	1·7

Comparison with the figures of last year's disposal of crop shows the following changes: the proportion shipped as concentrated juice fell from 66·2 to 60·9 per cent.; and that shipped as raw juice rose from 2·9 to 9·6 per cent. Fresh limes showed a slight improvement, having risen from 4·2 to 6·1 per cent.

Citrate of lime dropped from 26·6 to 21·5 per cent.; while citric acid, which now makes its first appearance in this column, represents 1·7 of the total crop. The small business carried on in pickled limes and lime juice cordial absorbed 613 barrels of limes only.

The weather conditions were favourable throughout the year in the south districts of the island. The centre and northern parts were visited by a severe rainstorm on the 8th April, which caused some damage to cultivations and also to roads and bridges.

The position of the lime industry during 1922 is recorded below :—

Product.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
		£
Concentrated lime juice	162,222 gallons	44,611
Raw lime juice ..	286,782 ,,	17,924
Lime juice cordial ..	4,226 ,,	911
Fresh limes	24,389 barrels	23,225
Pickled limes ..	444 ,,	450
Citrate of lime ..	6,450 cwt.	22,575
Citric acid crystals ..	38,864 lb.	3,400
Essential oil of limes..	76,150 ,,	7,615
Otto of limes.. ..	24,267 ,,	10,305
		£131,016

NOTES ON MINOR CULTIVATIONS.

The subject of minor industries in Dominica was discussed at some length in the Progress Report for 1921–22. As it is unnecessary to go over this ground again it is now only intended briefly to refer to several matters which have come up for discussion during the year under review.

Bananas.

Both planters and peasants were keenly interested for several months over the possibilities of banana cultivation being taken up in the estates and small holdings on the leeward coast.

Mr. Stanley, the representative of a syndicate of British capitalists formed, it is understood, for the purpose of starting banana growing in British Guiana and in several of the West Indian Islands, visited Dominica in January and explained the views of his principals at a public meeting. After listening to Mr. Stanley's proposals the meeting of planters decided to place the matter in the hands of a small committee for further consideration. This committee finally decided that, owing to the difficulties of transport in Dominica, the price offered, 1*s.* 9*d.* per straight bunch, would not permit of a profit being made under present conditions, and the suggestion was advanced that a minimum of 2*s.* 6*d.* per straight bunch would be necessary to induce planters to enter upon an agreement to grow and supply bananas over a period of five years. The syndicate was not prepared to pay this figure, and regret was expressed that the state of internal transport should have operated so adversely in this connexion.

During October, while the subject of banana growing was at its height, one of the lime nurseries at the Morne was given up, and an area sufficient to accommodate 200 banana plants, 12 ft. by 12 ft. in the rows and 16 ft. by 16 ft. between the rows, was formed in its place in order to serve as a demonstration plot in case banana growing should be taken up on some scale. Although the weather was abnormally dry from October to April, the plants have done very well and a good deal of interest has been taken in the plot.

It is not generally known locally that, in the event of this cultivation being undertaken at some future time with a view to the export of the fruit, the present methods of growing bananas in this country would require some alteration in procedure in order to permit of the production of bunches of standard size. Unfortunately, events in this connexion have taken such a turn as to exclude general public interest in banana growing for export, but endeavours will be made to carry on the plot for several years. The results will be noted, and these may be of sufficient interest for publication in future reports.

Logwood Extract.

The suggestion to utilise local supplies of logwood was brought forward by an experienced planter, who thought that something might be done at this juncture with the considerable amounts of logwood in existence along the leeward coast, much of which has remained uncut for twenty-five years. A number of factories for producing this extract are operating in Jamaica, but it is not easy to obtain information in respect to the methods in vogue. Evidently a considerable amount of power is required in the process of preparing logwood extract, and it would be difficult to provide this in Dominica without a considerable outlay. The matter is still under consideration.

Castor Seeds.

Information was received from both London and New York to the effect that very large supplies of these seeds could be absorbed by the markets at moderate prices, and that the demand for large quantities is likely to be a lasting one. That is to say, this product is wanted not by the ton but by hundreds of tons. It would appear from the quotations now ruling that 1¼*d*. to 1½*d*. per lb. is the best that can be offered locally. Whether the peasants, who place little value on their time, would be prepared to grow this product for the price offered remains to be seen, but it is hardly likely that estates could grow and sell at this rate and make a profit. With some improvement in price, such as would allow both planter and peasant to engage in the cultivation, very considerable quantities of castor seed could be produced in this island.

Fruit Growing.

Dominica has already worked up a small trade in shipping fruits, which should, owing to the uncertainty regarding the future of the lime industry, now receive every possible attention with a view to further development. This can only be brought about in a considerable way by planting fruit trees of the best kinds, such as Julie mangoes, high-class grapefruits and selected Avocado pears, while some further business might be developed by cultivating the small luscious oranges known locally as Portugals, and sweet limes, and by planting the best varieties of tangerines.

In growing fruit for export, the question of transport, which is such a serious drawback in Dominica, has to be considered. It may, therefore, be pointed out that all the fruit trees mentioned can be grown to perfection on lands along the leeward coast.

The present situation in regard to fruit exports is shown below. Although fresh limes are mainly shipped in barrels, the quantity is expressed in the table as standard crates of two cubic feet capacity for the sake of uniformity. The following shipments were made between 1st January and 31st October, 1922, a period of ten months.

	Standard crates.
Fresh limes	49,350
Mangoes	7,878
Oranges	2,334
Grapefruits	62
Avocado pears	759
	60,383

During the same period, 2,689 bunches of bananas and 165,976 coconuts were exported.

It will be clear to all, at least a section of the community must have learned a good deal about the handling, packing and shipping of fruit, and further to have succeeded in establishing satisfactory business relations in this connexion in other countries. On the whole, Dominica is in a favourable position in this respect, and planting operations, the only way to increased production, can be entered upon with more confidence than is usual in countries in which fruit growing for export is in the initial stage.

In addition to the three Ordinances referred to in the financial statement nine Ordinances were passed during the year, the most important of which was the Compulsory Vaccination Ordinance, the passing of which has received full justification in the recent serious epidemic of Alastrim.

This epidemic, which was first noticed in the southern end of the island in May, 1922, spread through all the districts of the island at great rapidity. The disease was of a mild type, but considerable difficulty was experienced in carrying out the necessary isolation measures owing to the mountainous nature of the island, and to the fact that the outbreak had gained a firm footing before it was discovered by the medical authorities.

The result of this epidemic has been that the island has been rigidly quarantined from early in August, 1922, up to the present time.

" Withertip " disease of lime trees was first reported to the local Agricultural Department early in May, 1922, and, by the following October this plant disease had spread throughout the island. The services of a mycologist were obtained from the Imperial Department of Agriculture. As already stated, it is probable that the exports for the year under review were not directly affected from this cause, but it is feared that, when the Report for the current year comes to be compiled, it will be necessary to record its disastrous effects on the lime plantations throughout the Presidency.

MONTSERRAT.

Notes by His Honour Major H. W. Peebles, D.S.O.

FINANCE.

The revenue for the financial year 1922–23 amounted to £18,095 18*s.* 0*d.*, giving an increase of £994 0*s.* 1*d.* over that of the previous year.

The expenditure was £17,015 9*s.* 0*d.*, as against £24,266 16*s.* 2*d.* for the previous year, showing a decrease of £7,251 7*s.* 2*d.*

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st March, 1923, was £13,742 6*s.* 2*d.*, made up as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Reserve fund	10,000	0	0
Surplus revenue over expenditure..	3,742	6	2
	£13,742	6	2

The public debt of the Presidency stands at £11,000, with a sinking fund totalling £4,730.

TRADE AND INDUSTRIES.

The value of imports increased from £44,899 in 1921 to £47,785 in 1922.

Exports amounted to £68,350 in 1921, showing a decrease of £8,597 when compared with the last financial year. This was due to the exceptionally large cotton crop not having been exported in the financial year under review.

Agricultural conditions were the best the Presidency had experienced for many years. Sea island cotton, the staple industry of the Presidency, showed an exceptionally good return. Climatic conditions for successful production left little to be desired, the crop yielding over 400,000 lb. of lint although only one picking was allowed by the Agricultural Department, due to measures taken to prevent the spreading of the Pink Bollworm.

During the year a Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Co-operative Association was inaugurated, having for its object the handling and marketing of all minor fruits and vegetables grown by peasants and peasant proprietors. Over 110,000 lb. of onions passed through the hands of the Association. New markets in New York and Canada were exploited, and one has reason to believe that good markets will be assured in the future if only co-operation takes place. It is interesting to note that largely due to this Association freight rates have been lowered.

Considerable activity is to be noticed in the planting of fruit trees, minor fruits and vegetables.

A Self-Help was started in the early part of the year and has proved a great boon to the people, large quantities of needlework, hats and preserves have been handled at remunerative prices. The noted Montserrat straw hat being specially in demand.

GENERAL.

A much needed new Treasury and Post Office building was completed during the year.

Amongst other improvements carried out during the year was the erection of a War Memorial on the Bay Front, with a clock tower, standing in its own small ornamental garden.

The addition of a brass band tends to liven up the social affairs of the Presidency.

Towards the end of the year a Committee to enquire into the revenue and expenditure of this Presidency was appointed. The result of this enquiry proved that the finances of the Presidency were in a healthy condition and every care was being taken to nurse the resources of the Presidency, at the same time ensuring a policy of progress and advancement.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Notes by His Honour C. F. Clarkson, Esquire.

The estimated revenue for 1922–23 was £9,894, the actual revenue being £9,441. Considering that, owing to the abnormal conditions of the cotton market, the cotton crop sold amounted only to £240 in place of £4,394 during the higher prices and of an estimated sale of £2,000, the general revenue of the Presidency has been well maintained.

The estimated expenditure was £8,124, the actual expenditure being £8,156.

The excess of actual revenue over expenditure amounted to £1,285, increasing the surplus funds of the Presidency from £13,307 to £14,592.

Custom duties under Head 1 amounted to £4,458 against an estimated amount of £4,532.

Export duty realised £921 in place of an estimated amount of £1,030 owing to a fall in prices at the St. Thomas market.

Port and Harbour dues amounted to £76, an excess of £6 over the estimates.

Internal revenue from licences and taxes amounted to £1,076 as against an estimated amount of £1,102.

The Post Office showed an actual revenue of £2,527 against the estimate of £1,213; £2,506 being realised by the sale of postage stamps against an estimate for this item of £1,200.

The revenue derived from agricultural produce sold amounted only to £284 against an estimated amount of £2,050.

The abnormal condition of the cotton market is, as stated above, responsible for the small amount of revenue received under this head.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total value of imports during the year amounted to £35,915 as against £32,562 in 1921–22, an increase of £3,353.

The total value of exports during the year amounted to £12,834 as against £20,376, a continued decrease owing to the poor prices now obtained for export from the British Virgin Islands at St. Thomas.

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of shipping—inwards and outwards—during the year was 15,276 as against 14,987 during the previous year.

EDUCATION.

The number of schools in the Presidency in the year under notice was eight, distributed as follows :—

Tortola	5
Anegada	1
Jost Van Dykes	1
Virgin Gorda	1

The total number of children enrolled was 986, with a total average attendance of 708.

There were 58 prosecutions under the Education Ordinance, with fines totalling £9.

The Inspector of Schools visited the Presidency during May and held the usual annual examination in all schools. He again visited during November. During the latter part of the year the attendance at the schools in Tortola appears to have been affected by an outbreak of fever and influenza, though no schools were closed in consequence.

The amount voted for education for the year was £456 19*s.* 0*d.* The departmental expenditure was £405 9*s.* 7*d.*, as compared with £302 5*s.* 9*d.* for the previous year.

The schools are all denominational.

MEDICAL.

The Presidency suffered from an outbreak of dengue fever and influenza at the end of the year, from which, however, no deaths resulted.

The general health of the Presidency was good.

AGRICULTURE.

During the period under review the agricultural interests of the Presidency have faced several crises. The complete cessation of cotton planting in the Presidency for a one-year period caused by the very deplorable condition of the European cotton market, and further necessitated as a means of controlling recent depredations of the Pink Bollworms of cotton, has been greatly felt in all lines of business. Again, the St. Thomas market for our produce was hit hard, and stock, in particular, shipped to St. Thomas has sold lower than in previous years. Climatic conditions again proved unfavourable. This is the third successive dry season, the rainfall for the year being 40·89 inches, and the effects have been to some extent cumulative. As a result of these conditions both exports and imports have decreased. The extension of the growing of fruits and vegetables can be said, however, to have been well maintained during the period under review and, owing to the scarcity of money to purchase imported foodstuffs, the increased production of food crops for local consumption helped the domestic conditions of the Presidency immensely. In order to relieve the situation the growing of pure sea island cotton in the Presidency was again successfully resuscitated, while tobacco experiments conducted at the Experiment Station and tobacco grown on a small scale by growers are giving the greatest hope and encouragement for retrieving the commercial improvement and prosperity enjoyed in the Presidency in 1920–21.

GENERAL.

The Presidency is at present entirely dependent on St. Thomas as a market for its vegetables, fruit, eggs and poultry, and the low prices now obtainable there are seriously affecting the exports.

Improvements.

The Cottage Hospital has now been completed and is greatly appreciated by the inhabitants. A much needed Government warehouse has also been erected.

The roads and tracks have been kept in repair, but without the expenditure of a considerable sum they are useless for wheeled traffic.

Administration.

On the 5th April Mr. F. C. Clarkson took over the Acting Commissionership of the Presidency from Dr. J. Y. McFadyen. On the 5th January Mr. R. Hargrove assumed duty as Commissioner.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to his Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1158	Weihaiwei	1922
1159	Cyprus	,,
1160	Gambia	,,
1161	New Hebrides	1921 & 1922
1162	Nyasaland	1922
1163	Zanzibar	,,
1164	St. Helena	,,
1165	Sierra Leone	,,
1166	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
1167	Bermuda	,,
1168	Grenada	,,
1169	St. Lucia	,,
1170	Leeward Islands	1921–1922
1171	Fiji	1922
1172	Ceylon	,,
1173	Gibraltar	,,
1174	British Guiana	,,
1175	Barbados	1922–1923
1176	Basutoland	,,
1177	St. Vincent	,,
1178	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
1179	Mauritius	1922
1180	Swaziland	,,
1181	British Honduras	,,
1182	Uganda	,,
1183	Federated Malay States	,,
1184	Unfederated Malay States	,,
1185	State of Brunei	,,
1186	Straits Settlements	,,
1187	Falkland Islands	,,
1188	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	,,
1189	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1922–1923
1190	Jamaica	1922
1191	Seychelles	,,
1192	Bahamas	1922–1923
1193	Somaliland	1922
1194	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1922–1923

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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No. 1232.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1923–24.

(For Report for 1922–23 see No. 1195.)

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No. 1232.

LEEWARD ISLANDS

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1923-24.

The Leeward Islands form the most northerly group of the "Lesser Antilles" in the West Indies, and lie between 18° 27′ and 15° 10′. The Colony is now a Federation comprising the five "Presidencies"—formerly separate colonies—of Antigua, St. Christopher (usually called St. Kitts), with which Presidency is included Nevis, Dominica, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands.

The governments of the first three Presidencies are each administered by an "Administrator," while officers in charge of the two smaller Presidencies of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands have the title of "Commissioner." All the Presidencies form together one colony under a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who is resident at Antigua, the headquarters of the Colony. When the Governor is visiting other Presidencies the Colonial Secretary assumes, under a dormant commission, the office of Administrator of Antigua; and, similarly, when the Governor is away from the Colony the Colonial Secretary assumes the administration of the government of the whole Colony.

Councils.—There is an Executive and a Legislative Council for the Colony, and also separate Executive and Legislative Councils for each of the four larger Presidencies, the Virgin Islands having only an Executive Council.

The Legislative Council of the Colony consists of ten official and ten elective members, three of the elective members being chosen by the unofficial members of the Antigua Legislative Council, three by those of St. Kitts-Nevis, two by those of Dominica, and one by those of Montserrat, and a person resident in the Virgin Islands appointed by the Governor.

I. Financial.

Revenue.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year 1923-24 was £267,596 13s. 9d., made up as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Antigua...	88,433	16	8
St. Kitts-Nevis...	93,227	10	2
Dominica	51,803	4	1
Montserrat	23,683	8	9
Virgin Islands...	10,448	14	1
	£267,596	13	9

showing an increase of £17,178 15s. 3d. in comparison with the revenue of the previous year.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year 1923–24 was £276,021 15s. 8½d., made up as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Antigua...	99,781	17	9½
St. Kitts-Nevis...	92,695	0	5
Dominica	55,994	11	3
Montserrat	19,653	7	8
Virgin Islands...	7,896	18	7
	£276,021	15	8½

showing an increase of £3,751 3s. 2d. in comparison with the expenditure of the previous year. Of the total expenditure for Antigua, £16,264 12s. 1d. was spent on loan account.

The following table shows the amounts standing to the credit of the Reserve Fund on the 31st March, 1924 :—

	£	s.	d.
Antigua...	9,061	19	0
St. Kitts-Nevis...	9,750	0	0
Dominica	14,421	7	0
Montserrat	10,000	0	0
Virgin Islands...	10,090	10	10
	£53,323	16	10

The excess of assets over liabilities of £10,856 17s. 11½d. on the 31st March, 1924, was made up as follows :—

Presidency.	*Assets.*			*Liabilities.*		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Antigua	—			4,209	4	7½
St. Kitts-Nevis...	8,133	4	9½	—		
Dominica ...	—			7,893	12	4
Montserrat ...	7,772	17	3½	—		
Virgin Islands ...	7,053	12	10	—		
Total ...	22,959	14	11	12,102	16	11½
				10,856	17	11½
	£22,959	14	11	£22,959	14	11

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounted to £281,450 on 31st March, 1924.

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The following table shows the amount of loans raised and the amounts standing to the credit of sinking funds on 31st March, 1924 :—

Presidency.	*Total amount of loan raised.*	*Amount to credit of sinking fund.*
	£	£
Antigua	146,100	72,861
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	59,250	37,141
Dominica	65,000	43,293
Montserrat	11,100	6,169
	£281,450	£159,464

II. IMPORTS, EXPORTS, AND SHIPPING.

Imports.

The total value of the imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1923 amounted to £765,732, as against £754,359 in 1922, being an increase of £11,373.

The following table shows the imports into each Presidency of the Colony :—

	United Kingdom.	*British Possessions.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
Antigua ...	87,477	82,573	76,039	246,089
St. Kitts-Nevis	78,027	105,547	98,795	282,369
Dominica ...	42,600	58,826	49,529	150,955
Montserrat ...	9.536	26,894	13,013	49,443
Virgin Islands	1,940	14,353	20,583	36,876
	£219,580	£288,193	£257,959	£765,732

Exports.

The total value of the exports for the year 1923 was £898,255, as against £713,231 in 1922, being an increase of £185,024.

The following table shows the exports from each Presidency of the Colony :—

	United Kingdom.	*British Possessions.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
Antigua ...	169,761	152,470	2,664	324,895
St. Kitts-Nevis	189,386	150,848	19,553	359,787
Dominica ...	55,216	10,453	56,999	122,668
Montserrat ...	53,300	13,171	10,853	77,324
Virgin Islands	15	1,103	12,463	13,581
	£467,678	£328,045	£102,532	£898,255

Shipping.

The following table shows the tonnage of shipping entered and cleared during the year :—

	British.	*Foreign.*	*Total.*
Antigua ...	660,132	99,192	759,324
St. Kitts-Nevis	790,730	99,046	889,776
Dominica ...	543,005	151,634	694,639
Montserrat ...	484,537	1,219	485,756
Virgin Islands	13,496	3,657	17,153
	2,491,900	354,748	2,846,648

III. LEGISLATION.

The General Legislature of the Leeward Islands passed eleven Acts during the year 1923. The most important of these are :—

(1) The Leeward Islands Act, 1871, Amendment Act, 1923.—This amendment allows of the election to the General Legislative Council of an Unofficial Member from the Legislative Council of Montserrat, and makes provision for the appointment to the General Legislative Council by the Governor of an Official Member to maintain the balance of the Council.

(2) The St. Christopher and Nevis (Amendment) Act, 1923.—This Act makes provision for the appointment of two additional Members—one Official and one Unofficial—to the Legislative Council of St. Christopher and Nevis.

Antigua.

Eighteen Ordinances were passed during the year 1923 by the Legislative Council of Antigua. The most important of these are :—

(i) The Income Tax Ordinance, 1923.
(ii) The Water Works Ordinance, 1923, and
(iii) The Marriage Ordinance, 1923.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Nine Ordinances were passed during the year under review by the Legislative Council of St. Kitts-Nevis. The only Ordinance of any importance is the Income Tax Ordinance, 1923.

Dominica.

Thirteen Ordinances were passed during the year, the principal of which were the following :—

The Masters' and Servants' Ordinance, 1923, regulating the relative rights of masters and servants, and repealing the former law on the subject.

The Arms and Ammunition Ordinance, 1923, regulating the sale, etc., of arms and ammunition.

The Customs Import and Export Tariff Ordinance, 1921, Amendment Ordinance, 1923, making reductions in the Import Tariff in respect of certain articles, the importation of which, it was considered, was being hindered by the high rate of duty.

Montserrat.

The Legislative Council of Montserrat passed seven Ordinances in the year 1923, " The Trade Licences Ordinance, 1923," being the only Ordinance of any real importance.

Virgin Islands.

Six Ordinances were made by the Governor in 1923 for the Virgin Islands. The Ordinances worthy of mention are :—

The Public Hospital Ordinance, 1923, and the Road Town Buildings Ordinance, 1923.

IV. EDUCATION.

(A) *Elementary.*

The number of elementary schools in the Colony during the year under review was 101, distributed as follows :—

Presidency.	*Government.*	*State-aided.*	*Total.*
1. Antigua Barbuda	18	2	20
2. St. Kitts	16	2	18
Nevis	10	—	10
Anguilla	5	—	5
3. Dominica	23	3	26
4. Montserrat	—	13	13
5. Virgin Islands	—	9	9
Total			101

The numbers enrolled and in average attendance were :—

Whole Colony.	*1922–23.*	*1923–24.*
Number on roll	23,591	24,330
Average attendance ...	13,047	14,152

The total expenditure in the primary schools, exclusive of salaries of the departmental officers and of establishment charges, was £15,132 18s. 3½d., against £15,094 8s. 1½d. in the previous year.

(B) *Secondary.*

The following is a list of the secondary schools in the Colony, with their respective grants :—

School.	*Grants.* £	*s.*	*d.*
1. Antigua Grammar School	583	0	0
2. Antigua Girls' High School ...	200	0	0
3. Dominica Grammar School ...	530	1	7
4. St. Kitts-Nevis Grammar School...	640	0	0
5. Girls' High School, St. Kitts ...	93	15	0
6. Excelsior School, Nevis	50	0	0
7. Thomas Oliver Robinson Memorial School, Antigua	50	0	0
8. Spring Gardens Female Teachers Training College, Antigua ...	240	0	0

The primary schools in Antigua, Dominica and St. Kitts-Nevis are all under direct Government control, and are managed by a Sub-Inspector of Schools in each Presidency.

In Montserrat and the Virgin Islands they are, with one exception, denominational, and are managed by the clergy of the various denominations. The schools are examined annually by the Inspector of Schools, and grants are awarded on the results of this examination. The pupil teacher system is in vogue, the period of service being three years. Studentships are awarded to specially selected candidates at the conclusion of their pupil teachership for two years to complete their training as assistant teachers. Those for girls are held at the Spring Gardens Female Teachers Training College, Antigua, and those for boys at the Rawle Training Institute, Codrington College, Barbados.

V. GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

There is a Central Lunatic Asylum at Skerrets, Antigua, and two Leper Asylums in the Colony, one at Rat Island, Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles, St. Kitts.

Considerable improvements are being effected at the Lunatic Asylum with money which was returned to the Colony by the British Red Cross Association. Electric light is also being installed in the Institution.

VI. JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Prisoners sentenced to six months' imprisonment are sent to the Common Prison of the Leeward Islands, in Antigua, and immediately before the expiration of their sentence are returned to the Presidencies from which they were committed. In 1923-24 29 prisoners were transferred to the Central Prison, ten being sent from St. Kitts-Nevis, seven from Dominica, and twelve from Montserrat.

The expenditure on the Central Prison was £3,067 17s. and the receipts £1,908 0s. 11d., the cost per head to Antigua being £22 12s. 9d.

The daily average number of prisoners was 69.

Four male prisoners and one female prisoner died in the Hospital from natural causes. Inquests were held by the Coroner in each case.

Accommodation of the Prison.

	Males.
Separate cells	72
Association cells	5
Infirmary accommodation	8
Total for males	85

	Females.
Separate cells	24
Association (Infirmary)	4
Total for females	28

Comparative Table of Criminal Statistics for 1922–23.

	1922.	*1923.*
Cases reported to the Police	5,085	5,262
Number of cases brought before the Magisterial Courts	15,626	15,658
Summary convictions ...	9,933	10,088
Indictments in the Superior Courts	54	88
Convictions in the Superior Courts	20	48

St. John's Training School.

The St. John's Training School was established under the provisions of the Leeward Islands Act, No. 4, of 1891, for the reformation, education and training of boys under 18 years of age.

On the 1st April, 1923, there were 55 boys at the School. During the year three boys were received from Antigua. Twenty-nine boys were discharged during the year, leaving 29 in the School on 31st March, 1924. The daily average was 48. The expenditure was £907 1s. 7d., and the receipts £387 3s. 1d., the cost per head to Antigua being £17 17s. 11d. The health of the School was good. The boys were employed in agricultural and garden work in addition to the ordinary work of the School.

VII. POLICE.

The actual strength of the Force on 31st December, 1923, was 6 officers and 149 non-commissioned officers and men, whereas the authorised establishment, as provided for in the Estimates, was 6 officers and 162 non-commissioned officers and men. The Force was, therefore, 13 men under strength on 31st December, 1923.

Twenty-three men were enlisted to fill vacancies, a decrease of 16 on the figures for the previous year.

For reasons of economy certain Divisions were not kept up to their establishments in non-commissioned officers and men, hence the decrease.

The general peace of the Colony was undisturbed during the year, and there were no strikes or labour troubles calling for police interference.

The health of all ranks was satisfactory, and there were no deaths.

VIII. VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Colony, according to the Census of 1921, was 122,242, showing a decrease of 4,951 when compared with the Census for 1911.

Antigua.

In Antigua the estimated population on the 31st December, 1923, was 29,420. The number of marriages registered in the Presidency in 1923 was 68, as against 74 in 1922, while the births were 1,138, being 38·68 per thousand. The legitimate births were 250 and the illegitimate births 888, the percentages being 21·97 and 78·03 respectively. The deaths during the year numbered 811, which gives a death-rate of 27·56 per thousand. The deaths of children under one year, exclusive of 76 still-births, were 212, or 26·14 per cent. of the total.

The report of the Committee of Enquiry into infantile mortality has not yet been received.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

In respect of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis, the number of inhabitants at the close of 1923 was estimated as follows :—

St. Kitts 20,778, Nevis 11,964, Anguilla 4,398; the birth-rates being St. Kitts 41·7 per thousand, Nevis 30·8, and Anguilla 28·6, while the death-rate for St. Kitts was 35·6 per thousand for Nevis 25·0, and for Anguilla 20·4. The illegitimate birth-rate for St. Kitts was 31·2 per thousand, for Nevis 20·9, and for Anguilla 14·4, as against the legitimate birth-rate of 10·4, 9·9, and 14·2 for St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla respectively.

The mortality of infants under one year of age is high, being 234, 114, and 12 in St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla respectively.

Dominica.

In Dominica the estimated population at the end of 1923 was 38,632. The births registered during the year numbered 1,438, as against 1,456 in 1922, giving a birth-rate of 37·22 per thousand. Illegitimate births exceeded the legitimate by 292 (865 as against 573), the percentage of legitimate and illegitimate births being respectively 39·21 and 60·79. The total number of registered deaths was 1,007, as against 1,193 in the previous year, while the death-rate was 26·66 per thousand.

Montserrat.

The report on the vital statistics for Montserrat in 1923 shows a population of 11,890 on the 31st December, 1923; the births registered being 425, as against 403 in 1922, and showing a birth-rate of 35·7. The legitimate births were 110, the illegitimate 315, the percentages being 25·8 and 74·1 respectively. The deaths registered were 185 as against 263 in 1922, and the death-rate was 15·5 per thousand, as against 21·9 per thousand in the previous year.

The deaths of children under one year of age, exclusive of still and premature births, were 48, or 25·9 per cent. of the total number of deaths, as against 22 in 1922.

The general health of the Colony during the year was satisfactory.

IX. METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Antigua.

The average rainfall on sixty-eight stations was 32·41 inches. The average rainfall for 50 years is 43·94 inches, and the rainfall for 1923 was 32·41 inches, or 11·53 below the average.

The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 3·99 inches on 15th October, and the lowest temperature for the year (66°) was registered on the 28th January, 1923, and the highest temperature (93°) on the 19th September, 1923.

Six earthquakes were recorded during the year.

St. Kitts.

The rainfall at La Guerite Station was 34·08 inches for the year 1923.

Dominica.

The mean rainfall at different stations was :—

	Inches.
13 Leeward Stations	64·09
4 Windward Stations	77·92
4 Inland Stations	159·94
5 Lasoye Stations	67·24

X. POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the Quebec Steamship Company, and the Colombian Line. The mails are conveyed between Tortola and St. Thomas and between Tortola and Virgin Gorda by a launch belonging to the Government and by private boats, as follows :—

From Tortola to St. Thomas about four times a week.

From Tortola to Virgin Gorda about six times a month.

There is a fortnightly service by sailing boat between St. Kitts and Anguilla.

Antigua, St. Kitts and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other, the other West Indian Colonies, and Europe and America, by the cables of the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company.

There is no communication by telegraph with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands. Messages can, however, be sent to the Virgin Islands by cable via St. Thomas, and to Montserrat via Antigua. St. Kitts is in heliographic communication with Nevis.

XI. CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Lt.-Col. T. R. St.-Johnston, C.M.G., acted as Governor of the Leeward Islands from the 14th April to the 3rd June, 1923, during the absence on leave of the Governor Lt.-Col. The Honourable Sir Eustace Fiennes, Bart.; and Mr. E. D'A. Tibbits acted as Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands during the same period.

Mr. E. C. Eliot, Assistant Chief Secretary, Uganda, assumed the duties of Administrator of Dominica on the 9th July, 1923.

Mr. R. E. Noble, Resident Magistrate, Jamaica, assumed the duties of First Puisne Judge of the Leeward Islands on the 23rd November, 1923.

Captain O. L. Hancock, Governor of the Prison, Barbados, assumed the duties of Commissioner of the Virgin Islands on the 29th November, 1923.

Mr. P. J. A. Hamilton, Auditor, British Honduras, assumed the duties of Auditor on the 2nd January, 1924.

His Excellency the Governor left the Colony on leave of absence on the 30th March, 1924, and on the following day the Honourable T. R. St.-Johnston, C.M.G., assumed the Administration of the Government of the Colony; and Mr. E. D'A. Tibbits assumed the duties of Acting Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands.

ANTIGUA.

The revenue for the year 1923–24 amounted to £88,433 16s. 8d., as compared with £76,434 19s. 6d. for the previous year, being an increase of £11,998 17s. 2d. This is largely due to the receipts under Customs which showed an increase of £15,485 13s. 7d. The receipts under "Port, Harbour Dues, etc.," also exceed those for 1922–23 by £550 9s. 10d. Under certain Heads, the receipts for the year show decreases, notably Head 4, Fees of Office, £1,404 17s., and Head 5, Post Office, £2,358 12s. 2d. In the last instance the large difference in revenue is due to unusual sales of new stamps during 1922–23.

The Expenditure for the year amounted to £99,781 17s. 9½d., as against £101,123 11s. 4d. during the previous year, being a decrease of £1,341 13s. 6½d. There is an important increase in expenditure under Head 1., Charges on Account of Public Debt, amounting to £1,521 14s. 8d. This is due to the provision for interest and sinking funds on the loans raised for Roads, Water, Telephone Exchange, and refitting of the Government launch. There are also small increases under various heads, the next most noticeable of which is £536 5s. 10d. under Head 27, Agriculture, due mainly to expenditure on the local Exhibition and the British Empire Exhibition.

The following loans were raised during 1923–24 :—

1. Public Works Supplementary Local Loan, 1923, £6,000.

	£
For improving the water supply	5,000
For purchase of machinery for Government launch	1,000
	£6,000

2. Public Works Local Loan, 1923, £5,000.

	£
For unforeseen expenditure on water supply	1,265
For improvement of water supply ...	3,735
	£5,000

The total expenditure from loans amounted to £16,264 12s. 1d. The Public Debt of the Presidency at 31st March, 1924, was £146,100. The sinking funds held against this amounted to £72,861 5s. 6d., represented by securities in the hands of the Crown Agents for the Colonies of the face value of £83,045 13s. 1d.

A summary of the more important public works undertaken during the year is given below :—

1. *Roads.*—Approximately 30 miles of properly-graded macadam road have been laid down in place of old rough country roads. This includes the remetalling and surface-oiling of two of the main streets of St. John's city. Cost, £10,000.

2. *Harbour Works.*—(*a*) The old wooden jetty was replaced by a new jetty on 48 reinforced concrete piles with wood decking and superstructure.

(*b*) The old sea front of wood piles was replaced for a distance of 280 feet by a concrete retaining wall. Total cost of Harbour works, £1,616.

3. *Water Works.*—(*a*) Two concrete dams, 18 feet and 16 feet high, and 143 feet and 127 feet long, respectively, were constructed to conserve water in the Body Ponds stream.

(*b*) A new pump was installed at Sweets pumping station to raise 50,000 gallons of water in 12 hours a height of 343 feet into a new reservoir (capacity 40,000 gallons) on Buckley's Hill.

(*c*) One mile of 6-inch C.I. water main laid from Sweets pumping station to Buckley's new reservoir.

(*d*) Two wells, lined with reinforced concrete cylinders, 6 feet internal diameter, and 36 feet and 41 feet deep, have been sunk at Bendals.

(*e*) A concrete catchment area and a concrete tank (capacity 53,000 gallons) have been constructed at Freetown.

(*f*) Several other small wells up to 22 feet deep have been sunk.

Total cost of water schemes, £15,000.

ANTIGUA AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

The weather conditions during the year 1923 were again very unsatisfactory, the average rainfall for the calendar year being only 32·41 inches. 1923 thus makes the fourth year of a succession of abnormally dry years.

The fair rains which fell in some districts towards the end of 1922, however, had the effect of improving the crop, as compared with that reaped in 1922, but the low rainfall during the year makes prospects for the 1924 crop gloomy.

The Antigua Sugar Factory had a more satisfactory year than in 1922. The output of sugar was 10,308 tons, as compared with 8,219 in the preceding year, and the average sale price of sugar £25 13s. 10d. per ton as compared with £16. The total revenue of the Company was £268,900 10s. 5d., and the expenditure £211,434 17s. 9d., leaving a surplus of £57,465 12s. 8d. as compared with a deficit of £13,000 in 1922.

An interesting new development was the erection of a sugar refinery at the Antigua Sugar Factory; this was completed shortly before the end of crop and 120 tons of white crystals were produced.

Bendals Factory also had a satisfactory year. 2,233 tons of sugar were manufactured as compared with 1,417 in 1922, while the average price of sugar was £29 14s. as compared with £17 in the preceding year. There was a surplus on the year's working of £7,035, while in 1922 there had been a loss of £4,206.

During 1923 the Antigua Cotton Factory ginned and baled 31,662 lb. clean and 1,000 lb. stained cotton and crushed 127,454 lb. of cotton seed. The area under cotton continued to decrease, only 157 acres being planted as against 396 in 1922.

A large onion crop was reaped in 1923. The Onion Growers' Association handled 273,182 lb. onions; 200 crates were sold locally, and 4,803 crates exported. Owing, however, to low prices there was a loss on the year's working.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

Notes by the Administrator, Major J. A. Burdon, C.M.G.

The revenue for 1923–24 was £93,228, an increase of £5,099 over that for the previous year, and an excess of £4,978 over the revenue estimated. These results were due principally to the good price at which sugar was exported and the resulting unanticipated excess in export duty.

The income tax collected during the year was that assessed on 1922 incomes, under the Income Tax Ordinance passed in September, 1923. By this Ordinance, amongst other amendments, the previously existing exemption of incomes derived from products on which export duty had been paid was abolished. The total proceeds of the tax amounted to £1,993, payment by certain businesses registered out of the Presidency being still unpaid at the end of the financial year.

Expenditure during 1923–24, including £1,500 placed to Reserve Fund, amounted to £92,695, an increase of £4,680 on that for the previous year and an excess of £6,807 over the expenditure estimated. The latter was due to expenditure authorised during the year on various unforeseen services, the more important of which were :—

Compulsory re-vaccination, £330; restoration of Charlestown pier, £1,596; new operating theatre and improvements to Alexandra Hospital, Nevis, £332; continuation of tobacco experiment, £500; relief and relief works in Anguilla and Nevis, £184; additional water supply, Basseterre, £2,009.

The Reserve Fund was increased during the year, by transfer to it of the Investments Depreciation Fund and by appropriation of £1,500, from £7,000 to £9,750.

The remaining surplus funds increased from £7,601 on 31st March, 1923, to £8,133 on 31st March, 1924, a satisfactory result of the year's transactions.

The Public Debt was reduced during the year from £27,651 to £25,673.

The value of imports and exports during the calendar year 1923, rose from £274,529 and £219,226 to £282,369 and £359,787 respectively.

Owing to the very unfavourable weather conditions of 1922, the 1923 sugar crop was again much below the average, the total export of sugar, equating syrup to muscovado, being 10,717 tons. This, however, was an increase by 1,069 tons on the figure for 1922. The Sugar Factory increased its output from 8,426 tons of crystals in 1922 to 10,737 tons, of which 381 tons were consumed locally, in 1923.

The increase in the Factory output was largely due to the extension of the Factory railway line round the northern side of the Island nearly to Sandy Point, and the institution of sea transport of cane along the leeward coast. These extensions enabled the Factory to include the whole of the island in its sphere of action.

The total value of sugar products exported during 1923 was £278,819, an increase of £122,918 on the figure for 1922, due to the rise in price of crystals from £16 per ton in the latter year to over £26 in the former.

The average rainfall in St. Kitts during the year 1923 was the lowest on record, 35 inches, the average annual rainfall for the Island being 60 inches. These most adverse weather conditions very seriously affected the crop to be reaped in 1924, producing the lowest recorded return of cane per acre, 14 tons.

The area planted in Sea Island cotton was increased from 3,200 acres in 1922 to about 5,000 in 1923. The unfavourable weather reduced the return to little more than 50 lb. of lint per acre and the total production to 262,000 lb. The cotton exported, however, amounted to 625,041 lb., value £54,409, these figures being made up by stocks produced but not exported during the previous year. Owing to serious and prolonged drought in Anguilla, there was practically no cotton produced in that Island.

The Government Cotton Farm was continued and valuable work was done in provision of hand-selected fumigated seed and in plant selection, but production suffered for want of rain.

The Pink Bollworm did little damage in the early stage of the cotton crop, but gave no chance of any second picking. The campaign against this pest was maintained.

The cultivation of coconuts in Nevis remains steady, covering between 700 and 800 acres, about half of which are bearing. The number of nuts exported rose from 376,994, value £1,885, in 1922 to 438,450, value £1,995, in 1923. The few scattered plots of young coconuts in Anguilla are doing well.

The Government tobacco experiment has been continued with promise of success. There is, however, no indication as yet that planters propose to take up the cultivation of this product or turn to their own use the object lesson which the Government is providing.

The serious drought caused for a time acute distress in Nevis and starvation approaching famine in Anguilla. Relief and relief work were provided by the Government until the advent of rain restored normal conditions.

Early in 1923, cases of the Mosaic disease of sugar-cane were found in both St. Kitts and Nevis. Vigorous methods of eradication were at once adopted and with marked success, the disease being now confined to one estate in Nevis, where it is under control.

Despite depressed conditions the consumption of rum remained high, amounting to 19,780 proof gallons, a drop of only 413 gallons or 2 per cent. on the figure for 1922, and still in excess of the figure for 1917, in spite of the increase of 4s. per gallon in duty and excise which has occurred since that year.

No epidemic disease occurred during the year. The appearance of smallpox in Antigua led to the introduction, for a period of five months, of compulsory re-vaccination in St. Kitts-Nevis. The campaign met with ready acceptance on the part of the public. The re-vaccinations performed, added to the number of those persons immunised by recent re-vaccination or primary vaccination, may be regarded as having effected for the present the satisfactory protection of the whole Presidency. The vigilance and precautions of the Quarantine Board and Harbour Authorities have, however, in no way been relaxed.

The campaign against yaws and syphilis, which had been in abeyance for a time was recommenced on improved lines in November, 1923, too late for record of any results for the year.

The birth-rate exceeded the death-rate by 6·3 per 1,000, a decline on the figure for 1922.

The population decreased by 726 owing to emigration.

The rate of infantile mortality in Nevis, which fell from 384 per 1,000 in 1921, to 171 in 1922, rose again in 1923 to 334 per 1,000. No satisfactory explanation of this fluctuation is forthcoming.

The infantile mortality in St. Kitts which was reduced, by strenuous effort, from 304 per 1,000 in 1921 to 258 in 1922, rose in 1923 to 279 per 1,000, owing to the absence from the

Island for half the year of the District Matron. This slight rise due to a temporary difficulty serves to emphasise the valuable work which is being done in St. Kitts by the Midwives Board and the Baby Saving League and their executive officer, the District Matron. A steady continuance of reduction of infantile mortality in St. Kitts may be confidently anticipated. It is, unfortunately, impossible to extend the activities of the Baby Saving League to Nevis at present.

The Nevis Branch of the Public Health Department was reorganised in October, the post of Chief Sanitary Officer for that Island being abolished, and responsibility for sanitation being transferred to the Medical Officers as District Health Officers. The change gave promise of success.

The Moogrol treatment of inmates of the Leper Asylum was continued and extended during the year with gratifying results.

DOMINICA.

Notes by the Administrator, E. C. Eliot, Esq.

The financial year 1923–24 started with a deficit of £3,702 and closed with a deficit of £7,893.

The total revenue for the year was £51,803, being £7,365 under the estimate, and £6,512 below the revenue for the year 1922–23.

Of the £7,365 short of the estimates of revenue for 1923–24, Head 1, Customs, is responsible for £7,185 of the amount, made up as follows :—

	£
Import duty short of estimate by	6,424
Less sum received from surtax of 5 per cent., imposed from September, 1923, under Ordinance No. 12 of 1923, to meet the estimated loss consequent on the reduction of certain duties and the placing of certain articles on the free list	601
The net deficit on Import duty as compared with the 1923–24 Estimate is ...	5,823
Export duty proved short of the 1923–24 Estimate by	1,362
Total deficiency on those two heads as compared with the Estimate for 1923–24	£7,185

The reduced receipts from export duty are due to produce being held up and not shipped during the year under review owing to the low market prices then prevailing.

The actual expenditure for the year was £55,995, or £2,659 below the estimates and £1,963 below the expenditure for the year 1922–23.

The reduction in expenditure is due to the continued exercise of the strictest economy in all departments of the Administration.

The value of imports fell during the calendar year 1923 from £157,784 in 1922 to £150,955, and the value of exports fell from £163,867 in 1922 to £122,668 in 1923.

The value of imports during 1923 shows a decrease of £6,829 as compared with 1922 figures, which accounts in a measure for the drop in receipts from import duty. The value of exports during 1923 is £41,199 below the 1922 figures.

The diminution in the value of imports and exports is due to the continued trade depression accentuated in great measure by the "Withertip Disease" of limes, and the uncertain outlook caused thereby.

AGRICULTURAL.

The Lime Industry.

Owing to low prices and the difficulty of effecting sales quickly in London, the majority of planters agreed on a common line of action in regard to concentrated lime juice. For the time being it is intended to hold stocks in the Island until sales at satisfactory rates, if possible, can be brought about. A considerable amount of good has already followed this collective action; better prices for this product have been obtained, as well as a reduction in warehouse and other expenses.

It is largely due to this arrangement for holding stocks, rather than to the ravages of withertip, that the figures for the year under review make such a poor showing. These figures, which refer to the calendar year and not to the official year, require some explanation. In this connection it should be noted that the carry-over from 1922–23 was considerable, and that the crop held in the Island at the end of 1923 was very large. During the first five months of 1924 the export of lime products, the bulk of which must have been produced in 1923, represented no less than 200,000 barrels of limes. It would, therefore, appear that the crop for the whole Island during 1923 was, despite withertip disease, a fairly satisfactory one, though the shipments during that period were low. Calculated as usual in barrels of a capacity of 4·55 cubic feet, the produce exported represented 227,945 barrels of fruit.

The lime crop for the past five years, calculated in barrels of fruit and expressed in round numbers, is recorded below:—

	Barrels.
1919	402,000
1920	369,000
1921	516,000
1922	400,000
1923	228,000

The following table, calculated on the usual basis,* shows the disposal of the crop under the various heads :—

Product.	*Barrels. of fruit.*	*Approximate percentage of total crop.*
Concentrated juice ...	118,908	52·1
Raw juice	57,186	25
Fresh limes	20,748	9·1
Citrate of lime	21,568	9·4
Citric acid crystals ...	9,256	4

Comparison with the figures of last year's disposal of crop shows the following changes. The proportion shipped as concentrated juice fell from 60·9 to 52·1 per cent., and that shipped as raw juice rose from 9·6 to 25 per cent. Fresh limes represented 9·1 per cent. of the crop shipped. Citrate of lime showed a heavy drop from 21·5 to 9·4 per cent., while citric acid crystals improved from 1·7 to 4 per cent. The small business carried on in pickled limes and in lime juice cordial accounted for 279 barrels of limes only.

The weather conditions were again favourable throughout the year ; there having been an absence of high winds and torrential rains. The dry weather experienced undoubtedly operated in favour of the orchard cultivation carried on ; the possible exception to this statement being a narrow coastal strip in the south-west district of the Island. The export of products of the lime industry during 1923 is recorded below :—

Product.	*Quantity.*		*Value.*
			£
Concentrated lime juice...	79,272	gallons.	21,800
Raw lime juice	428,875	,,	27,188
Lime juice cordial ...	2,477	,,	584
Fresh limes	20,748	barrels.	22,688
Pickled limes	180	,,	189
Citrate of lime	181,629	lb.	5,677
Citric acid crystals ...	51,833	,,	4,535
Essential oil of limes ...	43,482	,,	7,141
Otto of limes	13,762	..	3,785
			£93,587

---

* 50 gallons of concentrated juice represents 75 barrels of lime fruits: 7½ gallons of raw juice represents 1 barrel of lime fruits: 1 ton of citrate of lime is equivalent to 266 barrels of lime fruits: 1 ton of citric acid is equivalent to 400 barrels of lime fruits.

MINOR INDUSTRIES.

Coconuts.—Efforts to bring about greater interest in this product cannot be said to have met with much success. With the exception of the Lasoye District, in which place coconuts are being grown on some scale, there is a general disinclination to undertake this cultivation. It is difficult to understand this attitude on the part of planters and peasants as there are large areas of land in the Island which are admirably adapted for this product. There is no other permanent crop so well suited to local conditions.

Tobacco.—Experiments in the growing of tobacco were commenced in October, 1923, under the direction of a Committee of the Agricultural Society. The curing of the leaves is now in progress. The assistance of Mr. Brooks, a tobacco expert in the employ of the Government of St. Kitts, was obtained in the early part of the experiments. It is expected that Mr. Brooks will pay another visit to Dominica in this connection.

Should the production of a black-leaf tobacco prove successful, this cultivation could be taken up by the peasantry. It is probable that the tobacco leaves, as soon as ready to cut in the field, would be readily purchased locally at fair rates. Persons who had small plots of tobacco this year were able to dispose of the green leaves at prices ranging from 2d. to 3d. per lb.

Ginger.—The attention of planters has been drawn to the possibilities of ginger cultivation. There is, however, a shortage of rhizomes for planting, and none can be obtained from Jamaica or other West Indian islands. Certain interested growers are collecting all the material possible in order to produce sufficient to plant considerable areas in the future.

There can be no doubt that the soil and climate of certain districts are highly favourable for the production of high-class ginger.

Bananas.—The situation in regard to bananas remains obscure. There is a large forest area in the vicinity of Portsmouth which is suitable for growing this fruit, while each of the large valleys of the leeward coast is capable of adding its quota for the export. Internal transport, as everyone knows, is bad, but something may be done to overcome this in the case of a single large area being brought under cultivation such as could be done on lands near to Portsmouth. The need of a larger producing area than can be obtained in any one small island may, sooner or later, operate in Dominica's favour.

Coffee.—Considerable sowings of seeds of *Coffea robusta* have been made in order to raise plants for trial. This species does very well in the Botanic Gardens, and it may be found to be suitable for planting in districts in which lime cultivation can no longer be carried on.

Nutmegs.—Large numbers of plants are being raised in the hope that both planters and peasants will undertake to cultivate this valuable tree in sheltered areas in the damper districts of the Island. The nutmeg does very well under such conditions. Another spice tree to which greater attention should be given is the clove. It also grows well under the same conditions as those which suit the nutmeg tree.

Vanilla.—A good deal of attention has recently been given to the planting of vanilla, which, if followed up with good treatment, should result in an increase in production in two or three years. A point of great interest is that several parties in the Island are now able to cure the beans in a satisfactory manner. This has led to some competition in buying. During this season green vanilla beans brought to town by peasants have been readily sold at satisfactory rates. Efforts are being made to interest peasants in this product to a further extent. In some measure green vanilla pods should be a source of income and take the place of limes formerly produced on small holdings.

Peasants are also being urged to take up the cultivation of castor seeds, to attempt the production of commercial papain, and to undertake onion cultivation.

Finally, it may be pointed out that experiments in propagating certain varieties of sour citrus are being carried on by the Agricultural Department. This work will cover a considerable period before conclusions can be reached. The importance of this work will be realised when it is remembered that it is the one industry which Dominica planters and labourers are acquainted with in all its aspects; and that practically all estates are equipped for dealing with the fruits of sour citrus and their by-products. The chief hope lies in being able to continue to carry on the lime cultivation on the dry coast lands, and in being able to replace on inland estates the common lime by an immune variety.

The epidemic of Alastrim, which had been present in the Island since July, 1922, and which had done considerable harm to trade owing to the quarantine restrictions imposed by other places, came to an end in September, 1923. No further cases have occurred.

As foreshadowed in the Dominica section of the Leeward Island Report for 1922-23, the ravages of withertip disease of the lime trees has hit this Presidency very hard. All possible efforts are being made to encourage other agricultural industries. The fallacy of depending on a single industry—as in the case of sugar in past years—has again been proved. Though the Island has a difficult period to get through for some few years to come it has now been fully realised that the recovery of this Presidency must be brought about by the extension of what have been known as minor agricultural industries.

No public works of importance have been carried out during the year owing to financial stringency, but a water supply for the village of St. Joseph has proved of great benefit.

Fortunately no heavy storms have to be recorded, which resulted in a saving on Public Works votes.

MONTSERRAT.

Notes by the Commissioner, Major H. Peebles, D.S.O.

The revenue for the financial year 1923-24 amounted to £23,683, giving an increase of £5,586 over that of the previous year.

The Expenditure was £19,653, as against £17,016 for the previous year.

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st March, 1924, was approximately £7,774, made up as follows :—

	£
Reserve Fund...	10,000
Surplus	7,774

The public debt of the Presidency stands at £11,100, with a sinking fund amounting to £6,953.

Imports increased from £46,826 in 1922 to £49,443 in 1923.

The principal imports were flour, salt fish and cotton goods.

Exports amounted to £77,324, showing an increase of £17,855 for the year under review.

The chief exports were cotton lint, lime juice, live stock, and Carib relics (valued at £700).

The Presidency was fortunate in obtaining a market for its 1922 and 1923 Sea Island cotton crop at prices ranging from 1s. 4d. to 2s. per lb. for lint.

Agricultural conditions were, when taken on the whole, exceptionally good. Moderate and even rains were experienced which materially helped to make the Sea Island cotton crop an exceptionally good one. The Pink Boll Worm did not appear in any marked form during the first picking. This pest was kept well under control throughout the year.

Onions were planted on an increased scale, but owing to drought, the yield showed a decrease. Prices ruling in the southern islands showed a marked improvement when compared to 1922–23.

The experiment of developing a fruit farm on a large scale at "Woodlands," in the north part of the Island, was persevered with, and promising results are to be noticed.

The Self-Help Association, where drawn-thread work, beads, guava jelly and other local products are exhibited for sale still continues, although general interest appears to be lacking, people preferring to send their work, etc., direct to America.

The only public works of any importance to be carried out during the year were the installing of a much needed water supply to the north and the building of a new petrol and oil warehouse. An attractive War Memorial, with clock tower, was erected on the sea front.

Considerable improvement was noticeable on the roads throughout the Island.

The Agricultural Department sustained a heavy loss in the death of Mr. W. Robson, Curator, whose knowledge, where the cultivation and production of Sea Island cotton is concerned, was second to none in the West Indies.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Notes by the Commissioner, Captain O. L. Hancock.

The estimated revenue for 1923–24 was £8,159; the actual revenue, however, amounted to £10,448 14s. 1d. The excess of actual revenue over that estimated may be accounted for by unexpected receipts under Post Office and Customs.

The estimated expenditure for the year was £8,626; the actual expenditure was £7,896 18s. 7d.

As the actual revenue exceeds the actual expenditure by £2,552, the surplus funds of the Presidency are increased from £14,592 to £17,144.

The Customs and Post Office Departments are mainly responsible for the excess in revenue over expenditure. The following comparative figures indicate that the Presidency is holding its own from a financial point of view.

	1922–23.	*1923–24.*
	£	£
Surplus	14,592	17,144
Imports	35,940	36,876
Exports	12,834	13,581
Agriculture ...	284	575
	tons.	*tons.*
Shipping	15,276	17,153

There are nine elementary schools in the Virgin Islands, located as follows:—

Tortola 6	Jost Van Dykes 1
Anegada 1	Virgin Gorda 1

After being closed for six years, the West End School was re-opened.

The attendance, generally, has continued to improve, the average for the year showing an increase of 82. The number of children of school age is approximately 1,600; of these, 1,140 names appear on the books.

The Inspector of Schools visited the Presidency in May and November, and held the usual examinations.

There were 21 prosecutions under the Education Act of 1890. £447 16s. 6d. was spent by the Government during the year, as against £405 9s. 9d. in the previous year.

From what I have seen of the educational system in the Virgin Islands, I am inclined to the opinion that it is defective in certain respects and, when I have had time to give this question fuller consideration, I hope to submit a scheme whereby the system of education in the Presidency may be rendered more efficient.

MEDICAL.

The new hospital has justified its existence, and its work is likely to increase.

As regards the general health of the Presidency, no epidemic is reported, but in the district around Meyer's, Tortola, a number of yaws cases occurred.

Health conditions compare favourably with those of any other part of the Leeward Islands.

During the year, new sanitary regulations referring to scavenging, destruction of mosquitoes, bakeries, and the sale of milk, were brought into force in Road Town by the Board of Health. These have had a good effect, but there is room for further improvement.

GENERAL.

The market in St. Thomas provided scope for the sale of the usual local products, but I am most anxious to persuade the people to grow crops which will produce articles which can find a market outside the Virgin Islands, and thus make the Presidency independent of local markets, which are not always satisfactory.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Government House has been added to and should be completed during next year. It is hoped that a Poor House may be erected in the near future; plans, etc., are being prepared and, in due course, will be submitted to His Excellency the Governor, who showed great sympathy with the scheme during his visit here in January.

It is also hoped that suitable quarters for the Matron of the Cottage Hospital may be erected during next year.

The roads and paths have been kept in such repair as the funds of the Presidency permitted.

ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. Hargrove left the Presidency on 3rd July, and was succeeded by Mr. F. C. Clarkson until 23rd November, when Captain O. L. Hancock assumed duty as Commissioner of the Presidency.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1206	Cyprus	1923
1207	Gold Coast	1922–1923
1208	Trinidad and Tobago	1923
1209	Zanzibar Protectorate	„
1210	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1923–1924
1211	Swaziland	1923
1212	Basutoland	1923–1924
1213	Turks and Caicos Islands	1923
1214	Fiji	„
1215	British Honduras	„
1216	New Hebrides	„
1217	Gibraltar	„
1218	Jamaica	„
1219	Sierra Leone	„
1220	Uganda	„
1221	Grenada	„
1222	British Guiana	„
1223	St. Vincent	„
1224	St. Helena	„
1225	Barbados	1923–1924
1226	Somaliland	1923
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	„
1228	Hongkong	„
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1923–1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1914–1923
1231	Cayman Islands	1923

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1283.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1924–25.

(*For Report for* 1922–23 *see No.* 1195 (*price* 9*d*.) *and for Report for* 1923–24 *see No.* 1232 (*price* 1*s*.)).

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No. 1283.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1924–25.

The Leeward Islands form the most northerly group of the "Lesser Antilles" in the West Indies, and lie between 18° 27′ and 15° 10′. The Colony is a Federation comprising the five "Presidencies", formerly separate colonies, of Antigua, St. Christopher (usually called St. Kitts), with which Presidency is included Nevis, Dominica, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands.

The governments of the first three Presidencies are each administered by an "Administrator," while officers in charge of the two smaller Presidencies of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands have the title of "Commissioner." All the presidencies form together one Colony under a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who is resident at Antigua, the headquarters of the Colony. When the Governor is visiting other Presidencies the Colonial Secretary assumes the office of Administrator of Antigua; and, similarly, when the Governor is away from the Colony the Colonial Secretary assumes the administration of the government of the whole Colony.

Councils.—There is an Executive and a Legislative Council for the Colony, and also separate Executive and Legislative Councils for each of the four larger Presidencies, the Virgin Islands having only an Executive Council.

The Legislative Council of the Colony consists of ten official and ten elective members, three of the elective members being chosen by the unofficial members of the Antigua Legislative Council, three by those of St. Kitts-Nevis, two by those of Dominica, and one by those of Montserrat, and a person resident in the Virgin Islands appointed by the Governor.

Between the 28th and 29th August, 1924, a severe hurricane swept the Leeward Islands doing moderate damage in Antigua and Anguilla, and considerable damage in Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts and the Virgin Islands; Montserrat, Nevis and the Virgin Islands being practically devastated. The last named suffered most severely as the storm had increased in intensity when it struck that Presidency.

The number of deaths which occurred either during the storm or as the result of it was as follows :—

Antigua	3	
Nevis	4	
Montserrat ...	36	
Tortola	29	
St. Kitts, Nevis ...	20	(lost on board sailing craft blown out to sea.)
Total ...	92	

The damage to Government buildings in Tortola and to roads and buildings in St. Kitts was considerable, and the crops and estate buildings and peasants dwellings suffered greatly in Montserrat, Nevis and the Virgin Islands.

A Central Hurricane Relief Committee was formed at Antigua, and assistance was rendered to the stricken islands as promptly as possible. An appeal for subscriptions was widely circulated. Donations both from Government Funds and private subscriptions poured in from all the West Indian Colonies, and the Lord Mayor opened a Mansion House Fund which produced £4,000. The total amount subscribed was £22,965 9s. 8d. of which £22,416 9s. 0d. was devoted principally to the relief of peasants and labourers and the reconstruction of their dwellings, as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Antigua	1,356	5	9
St. Kitts-Nevis	6,451	16	11
Montserrat	6,453	19	1
Virgin Islands	7,939	15	2
Leeward Islands Churches Repair Fund (Special Fund)	114	12	1
Cost of Telegrams	100	0	0
Total	£22,416	9	0

Of the balance of £549 0s. 8d. the sum of £50 was, with the approval of the Secretary of State, paid to the officer who performed the duties of Secretary of the Central Hurricane Relief Committee and the remaining £499 0s. 8d. was, also with the approval of the Secretary of State, placed to a Deposit Account as a nucleus of a fund to meet any further similar disaster.

Contributions of clothing and foodstuffs were also sent from several of the West Indian Colonies, also from the United Kingdom and other sources, for the relief of the sufferers.

Voluntary assistance was also rendered by the French West Indian Colonies and the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States of America.

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The cost of reconstructing Government buildings and repairing other Government property damaged by the storm was met partly from Surplus Funds and partly from a Grant of £10,000 which was voted by the Imperial Parliament for that purpose.

I. Financial.

REVENUE.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year 1924–25 was £240,272 11s. 10½d., made up as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Antigua	78,983	8	9
St. Kitts-Nevis	88,095	9	8½
Dominica	48,153	14	7
Montserrat	17,168	6	7½
Virgin Islands	7,871	12	2½
	£240,272	11	10½

showing a decrease of £27,324 1s. 10½d. in comparison with the revenue of the previous year.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the year 1924–25 was £269,400 19s. 9d., made up as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Antigua	85,244	13	9*
St. Kitts-Nevis	95,509	14	7
Dominica	55,483	9	3½
Montserrat	24,052	17	1
Virgin Islands	9,110	5	0½
	£269,400	19	9

showing a decrease of £6,620 15s. 11½d. in comparison with the expenditure of the previous year.

The following table shows the amounts standing to the credit of the Reserve Fund on the 31st March, 1925 :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Antigua	9,614	14	1
St. Kitts-Nevis	9,750	0	0
Dominica	14,421	7	0
Montserrat	10,000	0	0
Virgin Islands	10,090	10	10
	£53,876	11	11

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* NOTE.—This figure includes £1,118 8*s.* 4*d.* spent from loan funds.

The excess of liabilities over assets of £17,161 1s. 1½d. on the 31st March, 1925, was made up as follows :—

Presidency.	*Assets.* £	*s.*	*d.*	*Liabilities.* £	*s.*	*d.*
Antigua				9,352	1	3½
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	718	19	11			
Dominica				15,223	7	0
Montserrat ...	880	7	3			
Virgin Islands ...	5,815	0	0			
	7,414	7	2	24,575	8	3½
	17,161	1	1½			
	£24,575	8	3½	£24,575	8	3½

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounted to £284,250 on 31st March, 1925.

The following table shows the amount of loans raised and the amounts standing to the credit of sinking funds on 31st March, 1925 :—

Presidency.	*Total Amount of Loan Raised.* £	*s.*	*d.*	*Amount to Credit of Sinking Fund.* £	*s.*	*d.*
Antigua	145,900	0	0	78,410	13	10
St. Kitts-Nevis...	59,250	0	0	35,649	8	2
Dominica ...	65,000	0	0	42,775	16	11
Montserrat ...	14,100	0	0	6,553	15	2
	£284,250	0	0	£163,389	14	1

II. Imports, Exports, and Shipping.

IMPORTS.

The total value of the imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1924 amounted to £753,170, as against £765,732 in 1923, being a decrease of £12,562.

The following table shows the imports into each Presidency of the Colony :—

	United Kingdom. £	*British Possessions.* £	*Foreign Countries.* £	*Total* £
Antigua	71,905	76,298	74,050	222,253
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	107,354	101,150	88,676	297,180
Dominica	47,696	53,013	42,870	143,579
Montserrat	8,500	33,145	11,550	53,195
Virgin Islands ...	1,708	14,081	21,174	36,963
	£237,163	£277,687	£238,320	£753,170

EXPORTS.

The total value of the exports for the year 1924 was £667,623 as against £898,255 in 1923, being a decrease of £230,632.

The following table shows the exports from each Presidency of the Colony :—

	United Kingdom.	*British Possessions.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
Antigua	39,859	127,369	5,027	172,255
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	27,163	210,519	13,894	251,576
Dominica	37,826	16,859	116,572	171,257
Montserrat	49,428	9,181	716	59,325
Virgin Islands ...		502	12,708	13,210
	£154,276	£364,430	£148,917	£667,623

SHIPPING.

The following table shows the tonnage of shipping entered and cleared during the year :—

	British.	*Foreign.*	*Total.*
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Antigua ...	640,409	86,868	727,277
St. Kitts-Nevis	665,816	89,992	755,808
Dominica ...	521,809	126,260	648,069
Montserrat ...	445,425	1,312	446,737
Virgin Islands...	12,630	4,220	16,850
	2,286,089	308,652	2,594,741

III. Legislation.

Thirteen Acts were passed by the General Legislative Council during the year 1924. The most important of these are :—

(*a*) The Fatal Accidents Act, 1924.—This Act was passed in order to provide a statutory exemption to the Common Law Rule that the right to a personal action dies with the person. It is the first legislative measure of its kind enacted in this Colony and follows closely Lord Campbell's Fatal Accidents Act (Imperial).

(*b*) The Emigrant Labourers Protection Act, 1924.—This Act was passed to enable the Governor, with the approval of the Secretary of State first had and obtained, to issue Proclamations prohibiting the emigration of labourers from this Colony to any country or place outside the Colony, where the Governor is satisfied that the conditions of employment of manual labour in such country or place are such as would be detrimental to such labourers. Police Inspectors are empowered to board vessels and arrest persons contravening the provisions of the Act.

(*c*) The Leeward Islands Act, 1871, Amendment Act, 1924.—The Act empowers the Governor to appoint a resident of the Virgin Islands to be an Unofficial Member of the General Legislative Council, and, in order to maintain the balance of the Council, to appoint an Official Member, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State.

(*d*) The Quarantine (Amendment) Act, 1924.—This Act increases the period of surveillance from 12 days to 14 days in the case of suspected smallpox, and eliminates the time factor of ten years within which vaccination or revaccination must have been performed.

ANTIGUA.

The Legislature of Antigua passed fourteen Ordinances in the year under review. Most of these Ordinances were of a formal nature.

(*a*) The Income Tax Ordinance, 1924, repeals the existing legislation on this subject, namely, Ordinances Nos. 9 and 18 of 1923, and re-enacts their provisions with slight alterations.

(*b*) The Auctioneers Ordinance, 1924, was passed for the control of Auctioneers. Provision is made for the issue of Auctioneers' Licences, and each applicant is required to furnish security to the Colonial Secretary in the sum of £100. Auctioneers are required to keep proper accounts, and the Ordinance affords a greater measure of security to the public than existed prior to its introduction.

(*c*) The Antigua Sugar Factory (Land Acquisition) Ordinance, 1924. This Ordinance was introduced to enable the Antigua Sugar Factory, Limited, to acquire by compulsory purchase certain lands in the Presidency required by the Company for the construction of a railroad to connect its factory with that of the Bendals (Antigua) Sugar Factory, Limited. The lands are to be acquired in accordance with the provisions of the Leeward Islands Acquisition of Land Consolidation Act, 1919, the provisions of which Act are made to apply subject to the modifications set forth in Section 4 of the Ordinance under discussion.

DOMINICA.

Twenty-one Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of Dominica during the year 1924. The most important of these Ordinances are :—

(*a*) The Income Tax Ordinance, 1924.
(*b*) The Metal Ordinance, 1924, which was ordained for the prevention of thefts of metal.
(*c*) The Constitution Ordinance, 1924.—Section 4 of this Ordinance ordains that the new Legislative Council shall be composed of the Governor, the Administrator, six Official Members, two Nominated Members and four Elected Members. The Ordinance therefore provides for a measure of representative Government.

ST. CHRISTOPHER NEVIS.

The Legislative Council of St. Christopher Nevis passed eight Ordinances in the year 1924, all of which are of a formal nature and therefore call for no special comment.

MONTSERRAT.

Six Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of Montserrat during the period under review.

The (Montserrat) Wireless Station (Local Loan) Ordinance, 1924, is based upon the Antigua Ordinance No. 19 of 1922 and authorises the raising of a loan of £3,000 by the issue locally of Debentures redeemable at par at the expiration of 15 years from the date of issue. Provision is made for the registration of the Debentures, for the payment of interest and for the establishment of a Sinking Fund.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Nine Ordinances were made by the Governor during the year 1924 for the Virgin Islands. The most important of these are :—

(*a*) The Marriage Ordinance, 1924, and
(*b*) The Road Town Buildings Ordinance, 1924.

IV. Education.

(A) ELEMENTARY.

The number of elementary schools in the Colony during the year under review was 101, distributed as follows :—

Presidency.	*Government.*	*State-aided.*	*Total.*
1. Antigua Barbuda	18	2	20
St. Kitts	16	2	18
2. Nevis	10		10
Anguilla	5		5
3. Dominica	23	3	26
4. Montserrat		13	13
5. Virgin Islands		9	9
		Total ...	101

The numbers enrolled and in average attendance were :—

Whole Colony.	1923–24.	1924–25.
Number on roll ...	24,330	24,831
Average attendance ...	14,152	15,364

The total expenditure in the primary schools, exclusive of salaries of the departmental officers and of establishment charges, was £15,587 12s. 0½d., against £15,132 18s. 3½d. in the previous year.

(B) SECONDARY.

The following is a list of the secondary schools in the Colony, with their respective grants :—

School.	*Grants.* £	*s.*	*d.*
1. Antigua Grammar School	535	0	0
2. Antigua Girls' High School	200	0	0
3. Dominica Grammar School	608	0	0
4. St. Kitts-Nevis Grammar School ...	1,000	0	0
5. Girls' High School, St. Kitts	93	15	0
6. Excelsior School, Nevis	50	0	0
7. Thomas Oliver Robinson Memorial School, Antigua	50	0	0
8. Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, Antigua ...	240	0	0

The primary schools in Antigua, Dominica, and St. Kitts-Nevis are all under direct Government control, and are managed by a Sub-Inspector of Schools in each Presidency.

In Montserrat and the Virgin Islands they are, with one exception, denominational, and are managed by the clergy of the various denominations. The schools are examined annually by the Inspector of Schools, and grants are awarded on the results of this examination. The pupil teacher system is in vogue, the period of service being three years, Studentships are awarded to specially selected candidates at the conclusion of their pupil teachership for two years to complete their training as assistant teachers. Those for girls are held at the Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, Antigua, and those for boys at the Rawle Training Institute, Codrington College, Barbados.

V. Government Institutions.

There is a Central Lunatic Asylum at Skerrets, Antigua, and two Leper Asylums in the Colony, one at Rat Island, Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles, St. Kitts.

VI. Judicial Statistics.

Prisoners sentenced to six months' imprisonment are sent to the Common Prison of the Leeward Islands, in Antigua, and immediately before the expiration of their sentence are returned to the Presidencies from which they were committed.

The expenditure on the Central Prison was £2,513 11s. 6d. and the receipts £206 6s. 5d., the cost per head to Antigua being £31 3s. 7d.

The daily average number of prisoners was 74.

Mr. Thomas Fisher, I.S.O., retired on the 31st October, 1924, after 34 years' service as Chief Keeper of the Prison.

Accommodation of the Prison.

	Males.
Separate cells	72
Association cells	6
Infirmary accommodation	8
Total for males	86
	Females.
Separate cells	21
Association	3
Infirmary accommodation	3
Total for females	27

Comparative Table of Criminal Statistics for 1923–24.

	1923.	1924.
Cases reported to the Police	5,262	5,214
Number of cases brought before the Magisterial Courts	15,658	14,472
Summary convictions	10,088	10,352
Indictments in the Superior Courts	88	104
Convictions in the Superior Courts	48	65

ST. JOHN'S TRAINING SCHOOL.

The St. John's Training School was established under the provisions of the Leeward Islands Act, No. 4, of 1891, for the reformation, education and training of boys under 18 years of age.

On the 1st April, 1924, there were 29 boys at the School. During the year, nine boys were received. Thirteen boys were discharged during the year, leaving 25 in the School on 31st March, 1925. The daily average was 28·33. The expenditure was £641 3s. 3d., the cost per head to Antigua being £22 12s. 7d. The health of the School was good. The boys were employed in agricultural and garden work in addition to the ordinary work of the School.

VII. Police.

The actual strength of the Force on 31st December, 1924, was 4 officers and 150 non-commissioned officers and men, whereas the authorised establishment, as provided for in the Estimates, was 5 officers and 152 non-commissioned officers and men.

Twenty-one men were enlisted to fill vacancies, a decrease of 2 on the figures for the previous year.

For reasons of economy the establishments in St. Kitts-Nevis and Dominica have been reduced to 55 and 40 respectively.

The general peace of the Colony was undisturbed during the year, and there were no strikes or labour troubles calling for police interference.

The health of all ranks was satisfactory, and there were no deaths.

VIII. Vital Statistics.

The total population of the Colony according to the Census of 1921, was 122,242, showing a decrease of 4,951 when compared with the Census for 1911.

ANTIGUA.

In Antigua the estimated population on the 31st December, 1924, was 29,201. The number of marriages registered in the Presidency in 1924 was 95, as against 68 in 1923, while the births were 1,032, being 35·34 per thousand. The legitimate births were 225 and the illegitimate births 807, the percentages being 21·80 and 78·20 respectively. The deaths during the year numbered 924, which gives a death rate of 31·64 per thousand. The deaths of children under one year, exclusive of 78 still births, were 257, or 27·81 per cent. of the total.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

In respect of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis, the number of inhabitants at the close of 1924 was estimated as follows :— St. Kitts 20,045, Nevis 12,003, Anguilla 4,470; the birth rates being St. Kitts 41·1 per thousand, Nevis 27·4, and Anguilla 27·7, while the death-rate for St. Kitts was 32·4 per thousand, for Nevis 25·2, and for Anguilla 11·3. The illegitimate birth-rate for St. Kitts was 32·3 per thousand, for Nevis 19·6, and for Anguilla 14·7, as against the legitimate birth-rate of 10·0, 7·8, and 12·5 for St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla respectively.

The mortality of infants under one year of age was 153, 89, and 10 in St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla respectively.

DOMINICA.

In Dominica the estimated population at the end of 1924 was 39,190. The births registered during the year numbered 1,672, as against 1,438 in 1923, giving a birth-rate of 42·66 per thousand. Illegitimate births exceeded the legitimate by 270 (971 as against 701), the percentage of legitimate and illegitimate births being respectively 41·98 and 58·02. The total number of registered deaths was 838, as against 1,007 in the previous year, while the death-rate was 21·38 per thousand.

MONTSERRAT.

The report on the vital statistics for Montserrat in 1924 shows a population of 11,760, on the 31st December, 1924; the births registered being 408, as against 425 in 1923, and showing a birth-rate of 34·6. The legitimate births were 116, the illegitimate 292, the percentages being 28·43 and 71·57 respectively. The deaths registered were 258 as against 185 in 1923, and the death-rate was 21·9 per thousand, as against 15·5 per thousand in the previous year.

Thirty-six deaths were caused by the hurricane of the 28th August, 1924.

The general health of the Colony during the year was satisfactory.

IX. Meteorological Observations.

ANTIGUA.

The average rainfall on 67 stations was 41·57 in. The average rainfall for 51 years is 43·90 in., and the rainfall for 1924 was 41·57 in., or 2·33 below the average.

The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 3·03 in. on 27th August, and the lowest temperature for the year (65°) was registered on the 29th December, and the highest temperature (91°) on the 16th April, 1924.

Four earthquakes were recorded during the year.

ST. KITTS.

The rainfall at La Guerite Station was 65·61 in. for the year 1924.

DOMINICA.

The mean rainfall at different stations was :—

	Inches.
11 Leeward Stations	85·09
4 Windward Stations	106·49
5 Inland Stations	219·53
3 Lasoye Stations	113·04

X. Postal, Telegraph, and Telephone Services.

British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the Quebec Steamship Company, and the Colombian Line. The mails are conveyed between Tortola and St. Thomas and between Tortola and

Virgin Gorda by a launch belonging to the Government and by private boats, as follows :—

From Tortola to St. Thomas about four times a week.

From Tortola to Virgin Gorda about six times a month.

There is a fortnightly service by sailing boat between St. Kitts and Anguilla.

Antigua, St. Kitts and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other, the other West Indian Colonies, and Europe and America, by the cables of the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company and by Wireless Telegraphy.

There is no communication by telegraph with the Virgin Islands.

A wireless station was opened in Montserrat on the 24th May, 1925.

Messages can be sent to the Virgin Islands by cable via St. Thomas. St. Kitts is in heliographic communication with Nevis.

XI. Civil Establishment.

Lt. Col. T. R. St. Johnston, C.M.G., acted as Governor of the Leeward Islands from the 31st March, 1924, to the 14th October, 1924, during the absence on leave of the Governor Lt. Col. The Honourable Sir Eustace Fiennes, Bart., and Mr. E. D'A. Tibbits acted as Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands during the same period.

Letters Patent were issued on the 30th May, 1924, appointing the Hon. M. V. Camacho, Attorney-General of the Leeward Islands, to be one of His Majesty's Counsel for the Colony of the Leeward Islands.

His Honour Mr. Justice R. E. Noble, First Puisne Judge, acted as Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands from the 23rd June, 1924, to the 26th September, 1924, during the absence on leave of Mr. Justice G. C. Deane.

His Honour Major J. A. Burdon, C.M.G., Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, was granted four months leave of absence from the 28th September, 1924. Major Burdon was appointed Governor of British Honduras before the expiration of his leave.

Mr. E. D'A. Tibbits acted as Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands from the 20th October, 1924, to the end of the year, during the absence on leave of Lt. Col. T. R. St. Johnston, C.M.G.

HONOURS.

The following Honours were conferred by His Majesty during the year :—

Hon. Lt. Col. E. Bell, M.B.E., Chief Inspector of Police and Commandant of the local Forces, to be an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

S. B. Jones, Esquire, B.A., M.D., Medical Officer, District No. 2 St. Kitts, to be a member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

ANTIGUA.

The revenue for the year 1924–25 amounted to £78,983 8s. 9d. as against £88,433 16s. 8d. received in 1923–24. The decrease, amounting to £9,450 7s. 11d., may be attributed to decreased receipts under Head 1, Customs, Import and Export Duties, being £11,134 below the receipts for 1923–24 and £7,815 below the amount estimated for.

The receipts under Head 2, Port and Harbour Dues, also show a decrease of £332 17s. 3d.

All the above, depending on the sugar crop and consequently on the amount of money in circulation, reflect the actual conditions prevailing during the year as owing to the very severe drought, the sugar crop was reduced to nearly one-half the normal output. Trade conditions as a result were bad and the amount of money in circulation was much reduced.

Head 3, Licences, Internal Revenue, etc., show a distinct increase, £3,346, due to the change in the Income Tax Law.

Head 4. Fees of Court were less than during 1923–24 by £1,878, but £1,219 of this is represented by Reimbursements on account of Extraordinary Public Works during 1923–24, which did not recur in 1924–25. Prison Workshop receipts during 1923–24 amounted to £1,505 as compared with £193 received in 1924–25. This was due to discontinuance of work in the workshop such as making of bread, &c., for Government institutions. Steam transport for 1924–25 was £552 as against £31 for the previous year, during which the Government launch was out of commission.

Under Head 5, the receipts show an increase over 1923–24 amounting to £275. This is due to arrears of telephone subscriptions having been collected.

Head 8. Miscellaneous receipts exceed those for 1923–24 by £410. This is due to various unusual items, e.g., Colonial Bank Note Excess Issue, £112.

Head 10. Land Sales show a decrease amounting to £201 18s. 5d. This is due to the fact that Land Sales are now kept as a special account and are no longer included in Revenue. The receipts for 1924–25 amounted to £204.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for 1924–25 amounted to £84,126 5s. 6d. as against £83,517 5s. 8½d. for 1923–24, showing an increase of £608 19s. 9½d.

Increases occur under the following Heads, viz :—

	£
Public Debt	429
Pensions	305
Municipal	210
Miscellaneous	588
Public Works	2,304

Decreases occur under :—

		£
Head 11.	Prisons, etc.	820
13.	Hospital, etc.	835
16.	Sanitary	490
21.	Military	243
23.	Post Office, etc., Telephones	798
26.	Public Works, Extraordinary	565

The Public Debt on 31st March, 1925, amounted to £145,900. The Sinking Funds provided for meeting the Debt when due amounted to £78,410 13s. 10d., the face value of the Securities being £89,018 10s. 4d.

	£
On 1st April, 1924, the Balance Sheet of Antigua showed a deficit of	**4,209**
The deficit on the year's working amounted to	**5,143**
The total deficit on 31st March, 1925, being ...	**£9,352**

AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES DURING 1924.

Weather Conditions.—The year under review was characterised by prevailing dry weather up to August, a period of drought experienced during the past four years finally culminating in the hurricane of the early morning of the 28th August, which, while it did damage to the extent of several thousand pounds, also brought relief in the form of welcome rains.

In this respect it appears best to quote *verbatim* from the Annual Report of the Directors of the Antigua Sugar Factory, Limited, for 1924 :—

> " (A) The Island has passed through one of the worst years for crops ever experienced, partly the effect of the series of droughts in recent years, but still more the result of severe drought during the crop season, which reduced the quantity of canes reaped by 25 per cent. below the estimates made at the beginning. The greater number of the estates had yields of only 4 to 9 tons per acre, and the average of the Island was 8 tons.
>
> (B) In consequence of the shortage of cane due to these causes, the margin of profit for the year is disappointing. Since the close of crop the Island has had excellent rains, especially at the end of August when a hurricane passed over the Leeward Islands, which, fortunately did not strike Antigua severely. The prospects for the coming crop are at present all that could be desired."

Sugar.—During the period under review the sugar output of the two central factories (Gunthorpes and Bendals) declined to 7,573 tons, including 23 tons of white sugar manufactured by the Bach process. What little muscovado sugar was produced was consumed locally; a conservative estimate would place this at 100 tons.

352,770 gallons of molasses, consisting practically entirely of vacuum pan molasses, were shipped during the year.

No fancy molasses or choice syrups were manufactured or retailed. This is the lowest output of sugar from the Presidency since 1911 and indicates the culminative results of the drought recently experienced.

Fortunately the hurricane of 28th August was accompanied with and followed by useful rains and the 1925 crop will approximate 16,000 tons.

Cotton.—While but a minor crop at present, cotton at one time ranked high in the crops cultivated in the Island. This industry has steadily decreased during recent years from 1,282 acres under cultivation in 1913–14 to 157 acres in 1923 and 145 acres in 1924.

The cause of this decrease is not far to see. It is an admitted fact that the West Indian Islands produce a type of cotton—Sea Island Cotton—which is the finest cotton grown in the world.

Due to the discovery of the Pink Boll Worm, attacks of the Leaf Blister mite, Cotton Stainer, and other pests, a close season has been necessitated which involves that all cotton plants shall be rooted out and destroyed by a fixed date. This, in the majority of cases, militates against any second picking and entirely prevents ratooning.

The prices fetched for this type of cotton were so low during 1923 and 1924 that planters claim they are unable in view of the above facts to grow it profitably and unless the market advances this crop will practically go out of cultivation.

During the season under review 11,015 lb. of lint were ginned and 14 tons of cotton seed obtained. Most of the latter was crushed and sold locally.

Onions.—During 1924 only 43,000 lb. of onions were shipped from the Presidency as compared with 303,000 lb. during 1923. Owing to poor prices fetched in the latter year the amount grown was considerably decreased. The 1924 crop, which was disposed of in the neighbouring West Indian Islands and Demerara, fetched very low prices owing to competition with onions from Holland and Madeira and later on in the season with shipments from Bermuda.

Minor Products.—The following represent the value, etc., of some of the exports of minor industries :—

	£
Coconuts	525
Hides and Skins ...	612
	Barrels.
Tamarinds	774

A small but progressing minor industry is that of ornamental seed work, the exports in this community being as follows :—

	£
1923	951
1924	1,420

The types of seeds used include Jobs tears (*Coix Lachrymae Jobi*) Circassian Seed (*Adenanthera pavonina*), Jumby Beads (*Erythrina Corallodendron*), Crab Eyes (*Abrus Precatorius*), Castor Seed (*Ricinus Spp.*), West Indian Lilac (*Melia Sempervirens*), Wild Tamarind (*Lencaena Glauca*).

ST. KITTS—NEVIS.

Notes by W. M. Wigley, Acting Administrator.

The revenue for 1924-25 was £88,095, a decrease of £5,133 from that for the previous year, but an excess of £1,130 over the revenue estimated.

Expenditure during 1924–25 amounted to £95,510, an increase of £2,815 on that for the previous year and an excess of £10,445 over the expenditure estimated. This was due to a severe hurricane which struck the Presidency on the 28th August, causing considerable damage to roads and bridges in St. Kitts by flood and to houses of peasants and other property in Nevis. The loss of life fortunately was small, 5 in St. Kitts and 4 in Nevis. The amount expended to the 31st March in reparation of this storm damage in St. Kitts was £7,848, in Nevis £1,400.

The Reserve Fund remains at £9,750, and the surplus on the 31st March was £4,052. This includes a sum of £3,333 allocated to the Presidency from the Imperial grant of £10,000.

The usual amount was paid to the Sinking Fund, and the actual Public Debt on the 31st March was £25,081.

Owing to the very low rainfall of 1923, the lowest on record, the sugar-cane crop reaped in 1924 was seriously affected, the total exports being only 9,699 tons of sugar. This was a decrease on the exports of 1923 of 1,016 tons of sugar. The total value of the sugar and molasses exported was £204,705, which was a decrease on the value of sugar and molasses exported in 1923 of £74,161. In addition to the shortage in the total exports the value of the sugar in 1924 was £23 3s. 11d., against £26 3s. 7d. in 1923.

Owing to the extension of the railway line of the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory and the water transport of canes from the pier at Godwin's Ghaut, the entire crop of the Island is now taken off at the Basseterre Sugar Factory and no muscovado sugar or syrup is made for export. Had it not been for the increased yield from the canes due to improved machinery at the sugar factory, the crop of the Presidency would not have exceeded 6,000 tons of sugar, perhaps the lowest on record.

The export of cotton for the year was 260,043 lb. lint, of the value of £24,766. The acreage planted in cotton was about 4,000 acres, of which 2,500 was planted in Nevis and 1,500 in St. Kitts. The average yield per acre in St. Kitts was 120 lb. lint and in Nevis about 28 lb. lint. This very low return in both Islands was due to the disastrous effects of the gale and heavy rains in August, which damaged the cotton to the extent of 60 per cent. to 70 per cent.

The Pink Boll Worm also did much damage to the later cotton and gave no chance of any second picking. The same strict control was kept on this pest as in previous years by the total destruction of all old cotton plants by burning and cleaning up of the fields under the supervision of an Inspector, in addition to a month's close season during which no cotton is on the land.

The Government Cotton Farm was carried on, 55 acres being planted in cotton. The yield of lint per acre was considerably affected by the gale and heavy rain in August, the total being 5,534 lb. clean lint and 484 lb. stains.

In Anguilla, owing to the attacks of the Pink Boll Worm and the very unfavourable weather, no cotton was planted.

The area under coconuts in Nevis remains about the same as in 1923, about 700 to 800 acres being under cultivation. The total number of nuts exported during 1924 was 244,145 of the value of £1,526. The coconuts in Nevis, especially on Pinney's estate, suffered considerably from the effects of the gale; a large number of trees was totally destroyed and others much damaged. In consequence of this, the yield will probably be small for some years.

Owing to the impossibility of disposing of the cigars made and the raw tobacco on hand, it was decided to discontinue the tobacco industry on a commercial scale, the planters not shewing any interest in it. The quality of the leaf grown at the Experiment Station at La Guerite is not of itself suitable for the manufacture of good smoking cigars, and although every effort was made to place them on the West Indian market no success was attained.

There has been generally no lack of a supply of ground provisions, large areas being put in in Nevis after the heavy rains in August.

There has been no epidemic among the stock during the year.

The Mosaic disease of sugar-cane, referred to in the report for 1923, has been practically stamped out and from careful inspection made during the year no sign of any infection has been met with, and it can now be stated that this disease has been controlled, both in St. Kitts and Nevis.

The health of the Presidency was satisfactory.

At the Leper Asylum the Moogrol treatment was continued, and it is anticipated that in a short time some complete cures will be reported.

DOMINICA.

Notes by R. B. Skinner, Esq., by direction of the Acting Administrator.

The financial year 1924–25 started with a deficit of £7,893 and closed with a deficit of £15,223.

The revenue for the year was £48,154, being £7,639 under the estimates and £3,649 below the revenue for the year 1923–24.

Of the £7,639 short of the estimates of revenue for 1924–25, Head 1, Customs, is responsible for £7,112 of the amount, made up as follows :—

	£
Import Duty—Other	4,080
Do. Alcoholic...	2,938
Surtax	358
	£7,376
Less Export Duty excess	264
	£7,112

Receipts from Income Tax were short by £882, due to the effects of the new Income Tax Ordinance, No. 6 of 1924, which besides being at a lower rate than the old Act provides for reductions in arriving at the chargeable income which did not exist under the old Act, which when applied brings the next chargeable income below £100 which is not taxable.

The excess in Export Duty is due to some of the previous year's produce being held over, shipped, and duty paid during the year under review.

The value of imports during 1924 shows a decrease of £7,376 as compared with 1923 figures, the value of exports during 1924 is £48,589 above the 1923 figures which is due to the fact that a considerable amount of the 1923 crop was shipped in 1924.

The expenditure for the year was £55,483, or £164 more than the estimates and £512 below the expenditure for the year 1923–24.

The drop in imports is due to depressed conditions generally which naturally affect the spending power of the population, as is borne out by the following figures :—

Imports.	1923. £	1924. £
Imports other than alcoholic ...	20,837	17,546
,, alcoholic	4,144	1,677

The reduction in import duty on alcoholic liquors is due to a certain extent to the removal of the Trade Duty on locally manufactured rum by Ordinance No. 20 of 1924, which resulted in an increase in Excise Duty from £3,619 in 1923 to £4,274 in 1924, but the drop of £2,467 in import duty is to a considerable extent due to the reasons given above.

The reduction in expenditure is due to the strictest economy exercised in all departments of the Service.

AGRICULTURAL.

The Lime Industry.

The export figures show a marked increase on those of the previous year, but this, however, does not mean that the difference between the two lots of figures is due to an increase in crop through a decrease in the ravages of Withertip disease, but rather to the large "carry over" from the previous year as mentioned above.

In spite of the Withertip disease it appears that the crop for the whole Island during 1923–24 has been a fairly satisfactory one although the shipments during 1923 were low.

Taking the five years 1918–1922 prior to the appearance of Withertip the average annual crop was 400,000 barrels of limes. The crop shipped since 1919 is calculated in barrels of fruit and, expressed in round numbers, is recorded below:—

1919	**402,000**
1920	**369,000**
1921	**516,000**
1922	**400,000**
1923	**228,000**
1924	**424,000**

Taking the average as a basis, the loss inflicted by Withertip amounts to roughly 74,000 barrels of limes in each of the years since 1922. Probably it is a little more, as allowance must be made for natural development and increasing output of the industry.

The following table calculated on the usual basis shows the disposal of the crop under the various heads.

Fifty gallons of concentrated juice represents 75 barrels of lime fruits; 7½ gallons of raw juice represents 1 barrel of lime fruit; 1 ton of citrate of lime is equivalent to 266 barrels of lime fruit; 1 ton of citric acid is equivalent to 400 barrels of lime fruit.

Product.	*Barrels of Fruit.*	*Approximate Percentage of Total Crop.*
Concentrated juice ...	356,053	84·0
Raw juice	46,443	10·9
Fresh limes	19,231	4·5
Citrate of lime	931	0·2

Weather conditions generally were favourable throughout the whole year, but bad weather and torrential rain in August and October was responsible for considerable damage to some cultivations and heavy loss of fruit.

The export of products of the lime industry during 1924 is recorded below.

Product.	*Quantity.*	*Value.* £
Concentrated lime juice ...	237,369 gallons	78,245
Raw lime juice	348,324 ,,	20,319
Lime juice cordial	21,944 ,,	2,482
Fresh limes	19,231 barrels	21,129
Pickled limes	293 ,,	486
Citrate of lime	7,789 lb.	245
Essential oil of limes ...	49,039 lb.	13,121
		£136,027

MINOR INDUSTRIES.

Coconuts.—During the year 1924 very little progress has been made except in the Lasoye district, where the cultivation under coconuts is gradually increasing and copra dryers have been erected at a number of places.

In 1923, 42,561 lb. of copra was exported as against 46,173 lb. in 1924, and of coconuts, 206,138 were shipped in 1923 as against 154,049 in 1924.

Planters are, however, being strongly urged to increase the cultivation of this industry.

Tobacco.—Experiments on a small scale during 1923 having proved successful, those interested have now planted about 60 acres. Arrangements are being made that Mr. Brooks, the tobacco expert from Jamaica, should pay another visit to Dominica and superintend the curing, grading and baling of the crop, and it is confidently expected that with care tobacco will become an important industry for Dominica.

Ginger.—Encouraging results have been obtained by a number of persons in the cultivation of ginger. Unfortunately, planting material was difficult to obtain during the year. Curing experiments were carried out on one of the Windward estates and the results were highly satisfactory. Samples of the cured ginger were sent to the Imperial Institute to be reported on.

Coffee.—A large number of seedlings of *Coffea robusta* were raised during the year at the Botanic Gardens and met with ready sale, but up to the present no information has been received regarding their progress.

Bananas.—The situation remains the same as in the previous year but efforts are being made to establish this industry.

Nutmegs.—There has been little demand for these during the year but the Agricultural Department has raised a large stock of seedlings for distribution.

Vanilla.—Interest in this crop continues to increase as is evinced by the following figures :—

	1923.	1924.
	lb.	lb.
Vanilla exported ...	668	2,168

Several of the large growers are now able to cure the beans in a satisfactory manner, and this has led to keen competition in buying the green beans from the smaller growers and peasants. No doubt vanilla will be a source of income to the peasants and will take the place of lime formerly produced on small holdings. On account however of the high prices which this product commands at the present time, praedial larceny is very much in evidence and the question of introducing legislation requiring growers to mark their beans while in the green stage and to guard against shipment of immature vanilla is under consideration.

LEGISLATION.

During the year in review 21 Ordinances were passed and of these the following appear to be the most important :—

1. Incomes Tax Ordinance, 1924.
2. The Liquor Licence Ordinance, 1922, Amendment Ordinance, 1924 (No. 2) abolishing the trade duty of 1/- a gallon on all rum manufactured within the Presidency.
3. The Constitution Ordinance, 1924, providing for a measure of self government by election of 4 out of 6 Unofficial Members to serve on the Legislative Council.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population in Dominica at the end of 1924 was 39,190. The births registered during the year numbered 1,672, as against 1,438 in 1923, giving a birth-rate of 42·66 per thousand.

The number of marriages recorded during the year was 126, as against 68 in 1923, showing an increase in 1924 of 58 over the previous year.

Illegitimate births exceeded legitimate births by 270 (971 as against 701), the percentage of legitimate and illegitimate births being respectively 41·98 and 58·02.

The total number of deaths was 838, as against 1,007 in 1923, a decrease of 169, while the death-rate was 21·38 per thousand. It will be seen from the above figures that the health of the Island on the whole during the year was satisfactory.

The number of male persons who left the Presidency during the year was 633, as against 265 in 1923. The increase is due mainly to two reasons, unemployment due to the effect of Weathertip disease of limes necessitating a reduction in expenditure on a number of estates, and secondly to the fact that during the period when alastrim was present in the Island the opportunities for leaving the Island were restricted.

GENERAL.

In October 1924 torrential rains fell to the east of Roseau causing serious landslides, one of which caused the death of 10 persons. The Roseau river became a raging torrent and did serious damage to three bridges and carried away two small bridges, and seriously disorganized the electric light and telephone systems. The river overflowed its banks and inundated the lower part of Roseau, causing considerable loss of property to persons living in that part of the town. Relief was given to those persons whose gardens were partially or totally destroyed and also to persons in Roseau who lost their property. The damage caused by this flood was estimated at about £6,000, but it is hoped that the actual expenditure in repairing the damage will not exceed £5,000.

The Imperial Government has generously granted a sum of £5,000 towards repairs of the damage and of this sum it is proposed to expend about £1,800 on a protection wall along the river bank to the north of Roseau in order to save the town from any further inundations of the kind referred to above.

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of a measure of self-government being allowed to the People of Dominica whereby 4 out of the 6 Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council will be elected. The necessary preparations have been made in readiness so that on receipt of the Letters Patent under the Constitution Ordinance 1924 the elections can be proceeded with.

As a result of representations to the Colonial Office regarding the position of the Island, due to various causes, Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G., late Director of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, paid a visit to Dominica in November 1924 for the purpose of investigating and reporting on the economic conditions of the Island, and his report on his investigations is being looked for with interest.

Petitions from the various agricultural districts of the Island praying for the re-establishment of a coastal service around the Island have been received and committees have been appointed to enquire into the agricultural possibilities of the Island, with a view to ascertaining whether the crop output at the present time would justify the expenditure on such a proposal. At the present time the estates in the Windward district have to depend entirely on small sloops, calling at irregular intervals, to get their produce to Roseau and it will therefore be realized that this system of communication seriously affects the agricultural development of those estates.

The prosperity of Dominica depends entirely on agriculture and, although the outlook is at present not so bright as it might be, it is believed that with the assistance and co-operation of all classes the Island will soon become prosperous again and that Dominica will once more flourish as it did a few years ago.

MONTSERRAT.

FINANCE.

The revenue for the financial year 1924–25 amounted to £17,168, being a decrease of £6,515 when compared with the previous year. The decrease was entirely due to the hurricane which devastated the Island in August, 1924.

Expenditure reached £24,053, showing an increase of £4,400 over expenditure in 1923–24.

The increase in expenditure was more than justified by results. A new water supply was laid on to the southern part of the Island, and new public buildings, essential to progress and advancement, were erected. Approximately £2,000 was expended on repairs to public buildings, roads and telephones owing to damage caused by the hurricane.

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st March, 1925, was £10,877, made up as follows: Reserve Fund, £10,000; surplus £877 16s. 5d.

The Public Debt of the Presidency stands at £11,100, with a Sinking Fund amounting to £6,554.

During the year a new loan of £3,000 was floated and fully subscribed.

The Loan is repayable in 1939, and was raised for the purpose of establishing a wireless station, to be completed by May, 1925.

The Presidency stands in a healthy financial condition and the outlook is one of hope. Thanks to the generosity of the Home Government the sum of £2,300 was voted by Parliament for this Presidency for use on non-repayable and permanent work of re-construction on Government buildings, roads and telephones damaged by the hurricane.

Thus the Presidency starts the new financial year with a reserve of £10,000 and a surplus of approximately £3,000.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

Imports increased from £49,443 to £53,195 due to large consignments of lumber for repairing hurricane damage.

Exports amounted to £59,325, showing a decline of £17,999 for the year. This decrease was due to the Sea Island Cotton crop being greatly damaged by the hurricane, only 40 per cent. of what promised to be a record crop being reaped. The weight of cotton shipped during the financial year totalled only 227,823 lb. of lint, whereas the crop was conservatively estimated to reach 680,000 lb. had the hurricane not devastated the cotton fields.

Planters were fortunate in getting good prices for the small crop of Sea Island Cotton reaped, the market being 2/9 to 3/3 per lb.

Other articles produced on a small scale, such as bay oil, papaine and sugar suffered relatively.

A Bermuda variety of onions were grown in large quantities for export to Canada and the adjacent islands. It is to be regretted that the market for this class of vegetable did not meet expectations, the yield being greater than the demand.

Agricultural conditions were exceptionally promising up to August but all hopes of a bumper year were obliterated at one fell swoop by the hurricane of August, 1924.

During the year the Montserrat Company installed an oil extracting plant. This new industry may have far-reaching effects and be a real blessing to the community. It is anticipated that this Company will handle the crushing of all marketable seed such as cotton, castor oil, etc., and produce the finished article in the form of cake for the feeding of stock, and for fertilizing.

Another industry, and what may well prove to be a remunerative development, is the introduction of tobacco planting. At present this new industry gives every hope of the Island being able to compete in the open market with producers of tobacco leaf for the home and continental markets.

GENERAL.

Increased energy and effort were devoted to public works. The policy of the Government was to improve the amenities of the peasant population whilst still conserving funds, always bearing in mind that it is essential to retain a substantial Reserve Fund.

Whilst the hurricane (which devastated the Northern and Windward districts of the Presidency, destroying over 900 peasant houses, doing untold damage to practically every estate and estate building in the Island and causing the death of 33 inhabitants) has undoubtedly given a severe check and set-back to the development of the Presidency yet, owing to the fortitude of the population and the pluck and determination of the planters, merchants and inhabitants, the Island is fast recovering from its effects. Thanks to the generous financial aid of the public in Great Britain, Canada, and the other West Indian islands, over 900 peasants' houses have been rebuilt and 1,000 renovated. The Canadian Government alone gave a free gift of 100,000 ft. of lumber.

£1,500 from Presidential funds was issued in small loans at 4 per cent. to peasants and poor planters to enable them to plant cotton, etc., and with a view to protecting the labour market.

The completion of the programme of Public Works forecast prior to the hurricane which comprised the laying on of a water supply to the south, the completion of new Government offices and Council chamber, petroleum warehouse, and the renovation and modernising of the Hospital with an up to date operating theatre and private wards, was carried through.

A general survey of the economic outlook for the ensuing financial year brings to the front the vital importance of conserving the funds of the Presidency wherever possible, having due regard to essential development and progress.

The want of rain for establishing the staple industry of the Island (Sea Island Cotton) makes the financial outlook somewhat dark, but there is every hope that revenue will balance expenditure without detriment to progress.

H. Peebles,
Commissioner.
4th June, 1925.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Notes by the Commissioner, Captain O. L. Hancock, O.B.E.

The estimated revenue for 1924–25 was £8,564; the actual revenue amounted to £7,872, thus failing to reach the estimates by £692. This fall in revenue is accounted for by the hurricane which reduced the Botanic Station receipts almost to nothing and made it advisable to remit certain taxes as a measure of relief.

The estimated expenditure for the year was £8,483, the actual amount spent was £9,110. The heads under which payment exceeded the estimates were: Police, Miscellaneous, Public Works Department, Agricultural, and Medical. The first four were due to the hurricane and the last to a new appointment at higher rate of pay.

The following figures show the comparative condition of the Presidency and, in view of the devastation wrought by the hurricane, are not as depressing as they might be.

	1923–24.	1924–25.
	£	£
Surplus	17,144	15,905
Imports	36,876	36,963
Exports	13,581	13,210
Agricultural	575	13
	Tons.	Tons.
Shipping	17,153	16,850

Five schools were destroyed by the hurricane and education was suspended for four months. The total number of children on the registers at the end of the year was 833, and the average attendance 115, a slight fall as compared with the previous year's figures. The total expenditure on the Department was £468 19s. 10d. as against £447 16s. 6d. The Inspector of Schools held his annual examination in May. The whole system of education needs reform but, under existing financial conditions, it is impossible to allocate sufficient money for this purpose.

MEDICAL.

Dr. J. Y. McFadyn was promoted to Anguilla during the year and Dr. McPherson was appointed to act pending the arrival of the new Medical Officer. Dr. David Alexander Volume took up his duties as Medical Officer of the Presidency on the 15th November. Extracts from his report on the health of the Presidency are as follows :—

> "During September and November more than one thousand persons were treated for ailments due to exposure during and after the storm. During the last three months of the year an epidemic of fever, influenzal in type, swept over the Island. Recovery from this was the rule and there were few fatalities. Four hundred and fifty patients were treated for this disease and probably as many more received no medical treatment. Due also to exposure and lack of accustomed food, there has been an unusual amount of bacillary dysentery; one hundred and six cases being reported with one death. There have been fifty-four cases of malaria of the Restive Autumnal type; the diagnosis being made from clinical observations only. There have been eighty-one cases of yaws treated with Stabilarsan, with fifty-two cured and the balance improved. Treatment had to be suspended, as our supply of the drug became exhausted, but will be resumed with the cheaper bismuth potassium tartarate. There has been one case of advanced pulmonary tuberculosis, one fatal case of tubercular astro nyslitis and ten cases of scrofula.
>
> All the schools have been visited and steps taken to improve their hygienic and sanitary condition."

GENERAL.

The Presidency suffered a set-back in August when a severe hurricane laid waste a major portion of the Island. Plentiful rain, however, has worked wonders and the crops appear to be well established and healthy.

The tobacco industry promises to be a success and, on the whole, the future of the Presidency may be regarded without misgiving.

IMPROVEMENTS.

A new hospital, piers, public buildings, Government House, quarantine station, etc., are being erected and, when finished, should be hurricane proof and permanent.

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No. 1323.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1925–26.

(*For Reports for* 1923–24 *and* 1924–25 *see Nos.* 1232 *and* 1283,
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No. 1323.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1925–26.

The Leeward Islands form the most northerly group of the "Lesser Antilles" in the West Indies, and lie between 18° 27′ and 15° 10′. The Colony is a Federation comprising the five "Presidencies", formerly separate colonies, of Antigua; St. Christopher (usually called St. Kitts), with which Presidency is included Nevis; Dominica; Montserrat; and the Virgin Islands.

The Governments of the first three Presidencies are each administered by an "Administrator," while officers in charge of the two smaller Presidencies of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands have the title of "Commissioner." All the Presidencies form together one Colony under a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who is resident at Antigua, the headquarters of the Colony. When the Governor is visiting the other Presidencies the Colonial Secretary assumes the office of Administrator of Antigua; and, when the Governor is absent from the Colony, the Government is administered in accordance with the Dormant Commission issued for the purpose.

Councils.—There is an Executive and a Legislative Council for the Colony, and also separate Executive and Legislative Councils for each of the four larger Presidencies, the Virgin Islands having only an Executive Council.

The Legislative Council of the Colony consists of ten official and ten elective members, three of the elective members being chosen by the unofficial members of the Antigua Legislative Council, three by those of St. Kitts-Nevis, two by those of Dominica, and one by those of Montserrat, and one is a person, resident in the Virgin Islands, appointed by the Governor.

I. Financial.

REVENUE.

During the financial year 1925–26 the total revenue (inclusive of £23,000 from Imperial Funds) of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands was £267,602, made up as follows :—

	£
Antigua	81,671
St. Kitts-Nevis	90,405
Dominica	61,623
Montserrat	21,371
Virgin Islands	12,532
Total	£267,602

showing an increase of £27,329 in comparison with the revenue of the previous year.

The following Grants-in-Aid from the Imperial Government are included in the above revenue :—

	£	
Antigua	450	For hurricane damage.
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	3,300	For hurricane damage.
Dominica	13,000	£8,000 in aid of Revenue and £5,000 for storm damage.
Montserrat ...	2,300	For hurricane damage.
Virgin Islands ...	3,950	For hurricane damage.
Total ...	£23,000	

EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure for the year 1925–26 was £268,861, made up as follows :—

	£
Antigua	79,004
St. Kitts-Nevis	88,888
Dominica	62,511
Montserrat	21,039
Virgin Islands	17,419
Total	£268,861

showing a decrease of £540 in comparison with the expenditure of the previous year.

The following table shows the amounts standing to the credit of the Reserve Fund on the 31st March, 1926 :—

	£	s.	d.
Antigua	10,197	8	3
St. Kitts-Nevis	10,750	0	0
Dominica	5,427	8	6
Montserrat	10,000	0	0
Virgin Islands	10,090	10	10
Total	£46,465	7	7

The excess of liabilities over assets of £19,167 17*s* 6½*d*. on the 31st March, 1926, was made up as follows :—

Presidency.	*Assets.* £	s.	d.	*Liabilities.* £	s.	d.
Antigua ...				6,684	3	10
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	2,235	8	4			
Dominica ...				16,858	12	4
Montserrat ...	1,211	11	7½			
Virgin Islands ...	927	18	8			
	4,374	18	7½	23,542	16	2
	19,167	17	6½			
	£23,542	16	2	£23,542	16	2

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounted to £279,250 on the 31st March, 1926.

The following table shows the amount of loans raised and the amounts standing to the credit of sinking funds on 31st March, 1926 :—

Presidency.	*Total Amount of Loan Raised.* £	s.	d.	*Amount to Credit of Sinking Fund.* £	s.	d.
Antigua	145,900	0	0	83,733	19	4
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	59,250	0	0	37,705	2	3
Dominica ...	60,000	0	0	39,689	6	4
Montserrat ...	14,100	0	0	7,108	4	0
	£279,250	0	0	£168,236	11	11

II. Imports, Exports, and Shipping.

IMPORTS.

The total value of the imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1925 amounted to £786,558, as against £753,170 in 1924, being an increase of £33,388.

The following table shows the imports into each Presidency of the Colony :—

	United Kingdom.	*British Possessions.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
Antigua	82,511	87,952	82,828	253,291
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	91,918	115,542	85,357	292,817
Dominica ...	52,111	50,308	43,785	146,204
Montserrat ...	14,638	35,491	9,674	59,803
Virgin Islands ...	3,093	8,712	22,638	34,443
Totals ...	£244,271	£298,005	£244,282	£786,558

EXPORTS.

The total value of the exports for the year 1925 was £727,862, as against £667,623 in 1924, being an increase of £60,239.

The following table shows the exports from each Presidency of the Colony :—

	United Kingdom.	*British Possessions.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£
Antigua	182,925	79,674	3,779	266,378
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	197,006	54,703	27,928	279,637
Dominica ...	40,367	17,919	67,310	125,596
Montserrat ...	40,121	3,813	1,408	45,342
Virgin Islands ...	187	361	10,361	10,909
Totals ...	£460,606	£156,470	£110,786	£727,862

SHIPPING.

The following table shows the tonnage of shipping entered and cleared during the year :—

	British. Tons.	*Foreign. Tons.*	*Total. Tons.*
Antigua	607,852	62,434	670,286
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	627,384	60,267	687,651
Dominica	539,898	64,186	604,084
Montserrat	278,466	1,030	279,496
Virgin Islands ...	13,345	3,140	16,485
Totals ...	2,066,945	191,057	2,258,002

III. Legislation.

Nine Acts were passed by the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands during the year 1925. The most important of these are :—

(*a*) The Magistrates Code of Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1925, which provides for the issue of free summonses to—

- (i) Public officers enforcing a public debt;
- (ii) Poor plaintiffs who have a good ground of claim;
- (iii) Persons seeking to recover compensation for services rendered under compulsion of law, without prepayment of their fees.

  Where the Magistrate grants a free summons to a person other than a public officer enforcing a public debt, he is empowered to award costs to the successful plaintiff, which, if and when recovered, are to be paid into revenue.

(*b*) The Companies Act, 1925, which makes provision for the formation of private companies by two or more persons subject to the restrictions mentioned in Section 2 of the Act. Provision is also made for annual lists of members and certain certificates to be furnished to the Registrar. A private company may turn itself into a public company by special resolution.

(*c*) The Elementary Education Consolidation Act, 1925.—This Act repeals and consolidates in one enactment all the Education Acts of the Colony. Provision is made for the appointment of Local Boards with the Administrator or Commissioner, as the case may be, of each Presidency as Chairman. Elementary Education is now placed under the control of Local Boards in each Presidency. The Inspector of Schools is now the Federal Inspector and Deputy Chairman of each Local Board, provision being made for the appointment of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. Questions of finance are to be determined by the Governor.

Antigua.

The Legislature of Antigua passed eighteen Ordinances during the year 1925. Most of these Ordinances were amendments to existing Legislation dealing with Revenue. The only Ordinance which may be regarded as of importance is the Antigua Sugar Factory (Land Acquisition) Ordinance, 1925. This Ordinance enables the Antigua Sugar Factory, Limited, to acquire compulsorily certain lands set out in the Schedule to the Ordinance upon the conditions set out in the Ordinance.

Dominica.

During the year 1925, twenty-five Ordinances were passed, of which twelve were designed to raise additional revenue.

Ordinances Nos. 14 of 1925 and 18 of 1925, entitled respectively, "An Ordinance to regulate the Examination, Curing and Exportation of Tobacco," and "An Ordinance to impose an Excise Duty on Tobacco," are important.

The former provides for the control of a local tobacco industry and prohibits the export of tobacco unless it has been previously certified as "Fit for Export" by a Tobacco Examiner appointed by the Governor under Section 3, and the latter Ordinance is designed to make up, by way of Excise duty on locally-manufactured tobacco, an amount equal to the revenue which was formerly collected in the form of import duty on imported leaf tobacco, viz., about £2,000, by imposing an Excise duty of 2*s*. per lb. on all locally-manufactured tobacco.

The only other Ordinance which may be regarded as of importance is No. 23 of 1925, entitled "An Ordinance to regulate the Examination, Curing and Exportation of Vanilla, and to prohibit certain dealings with the same."

Owing to the increase in cultivation of vanilla by peasants and others, and also to the activities of thieves, this Ordinance was passed to protect growers and to facilitate the detection of stolen vanilla, as well as to prohibit the export of inferior vanilla.

Montserrat.

The Legislature of Montserrat passed thirteen Ordinances during the year 1925, the most important of which are :—

(i) The Maintenance of Children Ordinance, 1925, which provides that every parent leaving the Presidency shall make adequate provision for the maintenance and care of his children during his absence.

(ii) The Bush Fires Ordinance, 1925, ordained for the prevention of unauthorised bush fires.

St. Christopher and Nevis.

Eight Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of St. Christopher and Nevis during the year under review, all of which were of a formal nature.

Virgin Islands.

Seven Ordinances were made by the Governor for the Presidency of the Virgin Islands during the year 1925. The most important of these Ordinances are :—

(i) The Gun Licences Ordinance, 1925, which provides for the registration and licensing of firearms; and

(ii) The Carriage of Goods by Sea Ordinance, 1925, which was drafted on the lines of the (Imperial) Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1924.

IV. Education.

ELEMENTARY.

The number of elementary schools in the Colony during the year under review was 103, distributed as follows :—

Presidency.	*Government.*	*State-aided.*	*Total.*
1. Antigua	18	2	20
2. St. Kitts	16	2	18
Nevis	10	—	10
Anguilla	5	—	5
3. Dominica	24	3	27
4. Montserrat	—	13	13
5. Virgin Islands ...	—	10	10
	Total ...	...	103

The numbers enrolled and in average attendance were :—

Whole Colony.	*1924–25.*	*1925–26.*
Number on roll... ...	25,331	25,769
Average attendance ...	15,364	16,113

The total expenditure in the primary schools, exclusive of salaries of the departmental officers, and of establishment charges, was £18,566 15*s.* 0½*d.*, against £15,587 12*s.* 0½*d.* in the previous year.

SECONDARY.

The following is a list of the secondary schools in the Colony. with their respective grants :—

School.	*Grant.* £	*s.*	*d.*
1. Antigua Grammar School	535	0	0
2. Antigua Girls' High School	200	0	0
3. Dominica Grammar School	608	0	0
4. St. Kitts-Nevis Grammar School ...	1,000	0	0
5. Girls' High School, St. Kitts... ...	93	15	0
6. Excelsior School, Nevis	50	0	0
7. Thomas Oliver Robinson Memorial School, Antigua	50	0	0
8. Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, Antigua ...	240	0	0

The primary schools in Antigua, Dominica, and St. Kitts-Nevis are all under direct Government control, and are managed by a Sub-Inspector of Schools in each Presidency.

In Montserrat and the Virgin Islands they are, with one exception, denominational, and are managed by the clergy of the various denominations, under the general control of the Education Boards. The schools are examined annually by the Inspector of Schools, and grants are awarded on the results of this examination. The pupil-teacher system is in vogue, the period of service being three years. Studentships are awarded to specially selected candidates, at the conclusion of their pupil teachership, for two years to complete their training as assistant teachers. Those for girls are held at the Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, Antigua, and those for boys at the Rawle Training Institute, Codrington College, Barbados.

V. Government Institutions.

There is a Central Lunatic Asylum at Skerrets, Antigua, and two Leper Homes in the Colony, one at Rat Island, Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles, St. Kitts.

VI. Judicial Statistics.

Prisoners sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment are sent to the Common Prison of the Leeward Islands, in Antigua, and immediately before the expiration of their sentence are returned to the Presidencies from which they were committed.

Two hundred and one prisoners (107 males and 94 females) were admitted during the year. The highest number of prisoners in custody at any one time during the year was 93 (72 males and 21 females). The expenditure on the Central Prison was £2,307 12*s*. 1*d*., and the receipts £206 6*s*. 5*d*., the cost per head to Antigua being £170 11*s*. 5*d*.

The daily average number of prisoners was 74. The cost of the maintenance of each prisoner was £28 17*s*. 7*d*.

There were no deaths during the year.

Accommodation of the Prison :—

Males.	
Separate cells	72
Association cells	6
Infirmary accommodation	8
Total for males	86

Females.	
Separate cells	21
Association cells	3
Infirmary accommodation	3
Total for females	27

Comparative table of Criminal Statistics for 1924 and 1925 :—

	1924.	*1925.*
Cases reported to the Police... ...	5,214	6,071
Number of cases brought before the Magisterial Courts	14,472	14,115
Summary convictions	10,352	9,050
Indictments in the Superior Courts	104	77
Convictions in the Superior Courts...	65	41

St. John's Training School.

The St. John's Training School was established under the provisions of the Leeward Islands Act No. 4 of 1891, for the reformation, education and training of boys under 18 years of age.

On the 1st April, 1925, there were 25 boys at the school. During the year five boys were received. Twelve boys were discharged during the year, leaving 18 in the school on the 31st March, 1926. The daily average was 24. The expenditure was £547 13*s.* 5*d.*, the cost per head to Antigua being £22 7*s.* 2*d.* The health of the school was good. The boys were employed in agricultural and garden work in addition to the ordinary work of the school.

VII. Police.

The actual strength of the Force on the 31st December last was 6 officers and 151 non-commissioned officers and men.

The authorised establishment, as provided for in the Colonial Estimates for the different Presidencies, was 6 officers and 153 non-commissioned officers and men. Dominica Division is much under-policed for its area, population, and the duties calling for discharge.

Two officers were appointed during the year, viz., Major C. H. Walker as Inspector, and Mr. H. G. Bell as Sub-Inspector. The former was posted to Dominica Division and the latter to Headquarters at Antigua. Captain P. Ruane, the senior Inspector, acted for the Chief Inspector during the latter's absence on leave in the United Kingdom. I regret to record that one officer, Captain C. D'P. D. Swain, Sub-Inspector, died at Antigua during the year. The Force and the Colony suffered by his death the loss of a promising young officer.

Twenty-one men were enlisted to fill vacancies, the figures being exactly the same as for the previous year. The men enlisted were of a good class.

Thirty-eight non-commissioned officers and men re-engaged for further three-year terms of enlistment.

Colonel-Commandant A. Mudge, C.B., C.M.G., commanding the troops at Jamaica, inspected the local forces, including the Leeward Islands Police, during the year, and his report was satisfactory.

The health of all ranks during the period under report was satisfactory, although a number of men suffered from sharp attacks of influenza. Two N.C.O's died during the year—one at Antigua and one at Dominica.

The general peace of the Colony was undisturbed during the year. There were no strikes or labour troubles calling for police interference.

VIII. Vital Statistics.

The total population of the Colony according to the Census of 1921 was 122,242, showing a decrease of 4,951 when compared with the Census of 1911.

ANTIGUA.

In Antigua the estimated population on the 31st December, 1925, was 29,470. The number of marriages registered in the Presidency in 1925 was 93, as against 95 in 1924, while the births were 1,105, being 37·49 per thousand. The legitimate births were 237 and the illegitimate births 868, the percentages being 21·45 and 78·55 respectively. The deaths during the year numbered 722, which gives a death-rate of 24·49 per thousand. The deaths of children under one year, exclusive of 80 still-births, numbered 160, or 23·40 per cent. of the total.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

In respect of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis, the number of inhabitants at the close of 1925 was estimated as follows:—St. Kitts 19,456, Nevis 12,135, Anguilla 4,565; the birth-rates being St. Kitts 47·3 per cent., Nevis 25·7, and Anguilla 33·00, while the death-rate for St. Kitts was 35·6 per thousand, for Nevis 16·4, and for Anguilla 12·2. The illegitimate birth-rate for St. Kitts was 78·0 per thousand, for Nevis 60·6, and for Anguilla 53·6, as against the legitimate birth-rate of 22·0, 39·4 and 46·4 for St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla respectively.

The mortality of infants under one year of age was 186, 52, and 13 in St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla respectively.

DOMINICA.

In Dominica the estimated population at the end of 1925 was 40,075. The births registered during the year numbered 1,495, as against 1,672 in 1924, giving a birth-rate of 37·30 per thousand. Illegitimate births exceeded the legitimate by 375 (935 as against 560), the percentage of legitimate and illegitimate births being respectively 37·85 and 62·15. The total number of registered deaths was 827, as against 838 in the previous year, while the death-rate was 20·63 per thousand.

MONTSERRAT.

The report on the vital statistics for Montserrat in 1925 shows a population of 11,673 on the 31st December, 1925; the births registered being 392, as against 408 in 1924, and showing a birth-rate of 29·7. The legitimate births were 106, the illegitimate 286, the percentages being 27·04 and 72·96 respectively. The deaths registered were 285, as against 258 in 1924, and the death-rate was 24·41 per thousand, as against 21·9 per thousand in the previous year.

The general health of the Colony during the year was satisfactory.

IX. Meteorological Observations.

ANTIGUA.

The average rainfall at 68 stations was 30·75 in. The average rainfall for 53 years is 43·05 in., and the rainfall for 1925 was 30·75 in., or 12·30 below the average.

The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 5·30 in. on 5th July, and the lowest temperature for the year (60°) was registered on the 1st November and the highest temperature (92°) on the 30th April, 1925.

Seven earthquakes were recorded during the year.

ST. KITTS.

The rainfall at La Guerite Station was 42·16 in. for the year 1925.

DOMINICA.

The mean rainfall at different stations was :—

	Inches.
11 Leeward Stations	87·41
4 Windward Stations	137·48
5 Inland Stations	153·94
4 Lasoye Stations	117·50

X. Postal, Telegraph, and Telephone Services.

British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, Furness Withy & Co., Ltd., the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Ltd., and the Colombian Line. The mails are conveyed between Tortola and St. Thomas and between Tortola and Virgin Gorda by a launch belonging to the Government, and by private boats, as follows :—

From Tortola to St. Thomas about four times a week.

From Tortola to Virgin Gorda about six times a month.

There is a fortnightly service by sailing boat between St. Kitts and Anguilla.

Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other, the other West Indian Colonies, and Europe and America by the cables of the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company and by wireless telegraphy.

There is no communication by telegraph with the Virgin Islands, but messages can be sent to that Presidency via St. Thomas. St. Kitts is in heliographic communication with Nevis.

XI. Civil Establishment.

Mr. Herbert Cecil Stronge, Chief Justice of Tonga, was appointed Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands. He assumed duty on 31st July, 1925.

Lt.-Col. T. R. St.-Johnston, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary), was appointed Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, and assumed duty on 23rd November, 1925. He administered the Government of Dominica from 5th June to 22nd November, 1925.

Mr. G. C. Johnson, Treasurer of St. Kitts-Nevis, acted as Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands from 1st June, 1925, to 16th October, 1925.

Mr. Edward William Baynes, O.B.E. (of the Ministry of Health, London), was appointed Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands. He assumed duty on 17th October, 1925.

Mr. Harry Herbert Trusted was appointed 2nd Puisne Judge in the Leeward Islands. He assumed duty on 26th September, 1925.

HONOURS.

The following Honours were conferred by His Majesty during the year :—

The Most Reverend Edward Hutson, Archbishop of the West Indies, to be a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George.

Major H. W. Peebles, D.S.O., Commissioner of Montserrat, Mr. R. C. Otway, Inspector of Works and Roads, Montserrat, Mr. F. H. Watkins, I.S.O., Magistrate of District " H," Nevis, and Captain O. L. Hancock, Commissioner of the Virgin Islands, to be Officers (Civil Division) of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

The Hon. H. A. A. Nicholls, C.M.G., Principal Medical Officer, Dominica, to be a Knight Bachelor.

ANTIGUA.

The revenue for the year 1925–26 amounted to £81,671 11*s*. 8½*d*. The expenditure was £79,003 14*s*. 3*d*. The excess of revenue over expenditure was £2,667 17*s*. 5¼*d*. On 1st April, 1925, the deficit of Antigua stood at £9,352 1*s*. 3½*d*.; on 31st March, 1926, it had been reduced to £6,684 3*s*. 10*d*. Against this deficit, the Crown Agents for the Colonies held at the close of the year, as a Reserve Fund, securities as follows:—

	£	*s*.	*d*.
Face value	10,482	13	7
Cost	10,197	8	3
Market value at 31.3.26	11,063	5	5

REVENUE.

The revenue, estimated at £79,039, amounted to £81,671, showing an increase of £2,632 over the estimates. £450 of this, however, represents an Imperial grant-in-aid for repair of buildings damaged by the hurricane in 1924.

	£
The total revenue for 1925–26 was ...	81,671
The total revenue for 1924–25 was ...	78,983
The increase over the previous year being	2,688

The increase was due to additional taxation mainly under Customs—import duties.

The following heads of revenue show substantial increases when compared with the previous year:—

		Increase. £
Head 1.	Customs	4,946
,, 2.	Port and Harbour Dues ...	467
,, 3A.	Municipal Rates	212
,, 4.	Fees of Court	470

On the other hand there are noticeable decreases under the following heads:—

		Decrease. £
Head 3.	Licences, Excise, etc.... ...	3,102
,, 5.	Post Office	355
,, 8.	Miscellaneous Receipts ...	560

In the case of Head 3 the large decrease is due to decreased receipts under Income Tax. The reduction must be attributed to the very low price of sugar, the main industry of the Presidency.

Under "Post Office" the decrease is nominal, the previous year's receipts having been unduly inflated by collection of certain arrears of telephone rent. Miscellaneous receipts are invariably an unknown quantity.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £79,003, being £232 more than the original estimate. This was, however, £5,123 less than the expenditure for the previous year, and included £449 19*s*. 0*d*. expended from the Imperial Grant already referred to.

With the exception of increases shown under Head 2, Pensions, £700, and Head 5, Federal Contributions, £340, the increases call for little comment. Pensions are unavoidable, while the Federal Contribution is based on the revenue received. On the other hand there are marked decreases under almost every other head.

The position of Antigua at 31st March, 1926, shows a decided improvement on the previous year, and unless unforeseen difficulties arise there is no reason why the existing deficit of £6,684 should not be gradually worked off within the next two years.

AGRICULTURE.

The year 1925 from an agricultural standpoint was a satisfactory one. The sugar crop was the highest on record, but unfortunately prices had fallen.

The following extract from the annual report of the Directors of the Antigua Sugar Factory well illustrates the actual state of affairs :—

> " The results of the year are satisfactory. The price of sugar fell heavily, but the reduction in revenue owing to this was balanced by a large increase in the output of sugar, the cane supply being considerably in excess of any previous record. The additional supply was partly due to the weather conditions being very favourable throughout the year, the rainfall being good and well distributed, with the result that the yield per acre was double that of 1924 and the quality of the cane was good. The increase was also due to the factory getting (again) canes from the two groups of estates mentioned in the last report. These estates are now under definite contract with the factory. It will be seen from the figures* given below that the Company's output of sugar, 14,626 tons, was much above any previous record. Notwithstanding this, the factory coped with this large quantity, and, though the capacity of the plant was taxed to the utmost, it maintained the quality of its work at a high level. The Company has also benefited much by the restoration of the Tariff Preference, to last for 10 years, to the rate at which it stood prior to 1924, viz., £3 14*s*. 7*d*. per ton, 96° polarisation."

The output from the other central factory (Bendals) was 2,370 tons of sugar.

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* Not printed here.

During the year a railway line was started with the idea of linking up the Antigua Sugar Factory with the Bendals Sugar Factory.

The onion crop was very much in excess of previous years, a large crop having been experienced, but the prices obtained were exceedingly poor and insufficient to pay the cost of growing, and growers are discouraged. The total amount of crates (approximately 50 lb. each) exported was 7,259.

Cotton Industry.—Owing to favourable market reports there was a material increase in the acreage planted under this crop, which had declined considerably during recent years, falling off from 1,282 acres under cultivation in 1913–14 to 145 acres in 1924. During the year under review an acreage of 482 acres was officially reported, but there is material evidence that this was considerably increased.

The Antigua Cotton Growers' Association, a private concern, but an offshoot of the Department of Agriculture, and worked on a commercial basis, financed the purchase of peasants' cotton and was enabled to make a fair second payment as the results of the year's working of the Association.

The quantity of cotton exported for the year 1925 was as follows :—

Cotton lint, 37,250 lb.

Cotton seed, nil.

The latter product was consumed locally.

Many estates suffered from the ravages of the pink boll worm, and in general no second picking was permissible owing to this pest.

Lime Industry.—Five hundred gallons of concentrated lime juice was exported during the year under review, and 1,600 coconuts. Antigua, owing to its variable rainfall, does not appear to be well suited for the latter product.

Seed-work.—There is a considerable trade centred in this commodity, which is principally a peasant industry, the total value of the exports amounting to £1,335. This is apparently a thriving minor industry.

One of the features of the year was the holding of a very successful Agricultural, Industrial and Horticultural Exhibition on 29th January, 1925, at the instance of His Excellency the Governor, and under the direction of the Federal and Local Agricultural Departments, which proved an entire success both from a financial and general standpoint. Special prizes were awarded for cottage gardens and peasant cultivations and a good deal of interest was shown by these smaller growers.

NOTES ON RAINFALL AND WATER SUPPLIES.

The rainfall for 1925 was poor, the average for 68 stations being 30·75 inches, as compared with a similar average of 41·57 inches for the previous year, and a general average for 53 years of 43·05 inches, so that the general rainfall for 1925 was 12·3 inches below the average in question. It was, however, well and equitably distributed, and it materially helped in the obtaining of favourable crops. Despite this low rainfall, the water supply has been so materially improved during the present administration that the town of St. John's has had a full-time service and every arrangement made for a corresponding country service. Where it has been impossible to arrange for a satisfactory continuation of the daily country service from Wallings Reservoir this has been substituted by a service from a reservoir erected at Constitution Hill, in the vicinity of Fiennes Reservoir.

In addition, new wells were sunk in various districts of the Island—previously unsupplied and dependent upon more or less contaminated ponds—and a wholesome supply thus ensured.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

The actual revenue for 1925–26 (exclusive of the Imperial Grant of £3,300 received during the year) was £87,104, being £3,896 short of the estimated revenue, and a decrease of £991 in the revenue received during the previous year. The drop in the anticipated revenue was due principally to import duties on alcoholic liquors, and export duty on the produce of the Presidency falling short of the estimate.

The actual expenditure for the year under review was £88,888, or £273 below that estimated and a decrease of £6,622 as compared with the expenditure of 1924–25 (the year of reconstruction of 1924 hurricane damage). Included in the year's expenditure is the sum of £1,000 credited to the Reserve Fund account, thus increasing the Fund to £10,750, and £3,916 placed on deposit for the provision of a recreation ground for Basseterre.

The usual amounts were paid to the credit of the Sinking Funds of the various Loans, reducing the Public Debt at the 31st March, 1926, to £21,545; and at the close of the financial year there remained a surplus of £2,235.

The value of the imports for the calendar year 1925 was £292,817, being less by £4,363 than imports in 1924. Detailed figures show that trade within the Empire has increased appreciably during the year.

Exports for the same year totalled £279,637, an excess of £28,061 over the previous year's figures, due to the increased quantity of sugar and cotton produced.

The good rainfall of the year 1924 resulted in the production in 1925 of a sugar crop of 15,563 tons, which is above the average of many years, and an increase of 5,367 tons on the crop of 1924.

The total crop of the Island was reaped at the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory, the canes being carried by rail and water transport.

During the year the extension of the railway line has been carried on, and it is now possible to transport to the factory, by means of this line, all the canes grown. This is a very valuable asset to the sugar industry of the Island.

The export of sugar for the year 1925 was 15,016 tons crystals, 46 tons muscovado sugar, 38,564 gallons fancy syrup, and 24,906 gallons factory molasses.

The price of sugar dropped from £23 3*s*. 11*d*. in 1924 to £14 18*s*. 2*d*. in 1925.

The total value of the sugar and molasses, as per report of the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory, was £244,166 1*s*. 7*d*.

The following extract from the report of the Directors of this factory illustrates the conditions of the year :—

> " The Company has again had a satisfactory year. The price of sugar has fallen heavily, but the reduction in revenue arising therefrom has been made up by a large increase in the quantity of the canes delivered. This increase has brought the output of sugar to 15,563 tons, or 50 per cent. above the previous normal, and is the result of the policy of extending the Company's railway, decided on three years ago. Some help from this step came to our cane supply in 1923 and 1924, but the full effect was not seen then because of the drought prevailing in those years.
>
> A very satisfactory feature, and one that could not have been counted on, is that the factory coped with this large quantity without letting down the quality of its work, which stands as high as any in the West Indies."

The total area under cotton was about 3,000 acres. In St. Kitts the total produced was 283,716 lb. of lint, or an average of about 190 lb. lint per acre. In Nevis and Anguilla, owing to very adverse climatic conditions, the returns were very low, only 26,539 lb. lint in Nevis, or an average of about 50 lb. lint per acre, and in Anguilla only 1,732 lb. lint, was produced. The total crop produced in the Presidency for the year was 311,987 lb. lint.

The demand for Sea Island cotton was better and the average local price was about 2*s*. 2*d*. per lb. lint.

The pink boll worm was again much in evidence towards the close of the season, but the actual loss was not very great in the first picking. The cleaning up of the land and the burning of all old cotton plants is rigidly carried out under the supervision of an Inspector, and the good returns of the year indicate that this pest is well under control.

The cultivation of coconuts in Nevis has not increased, and the disastrous effects of the gale in 1924 is reflected in the decreased export of nuts, the total number exported in 1925 being 2,375, as against 244,175 in 1924.

No epidemic diseases occurred during the year.

The campaign against yaws and syphilis continued. In addition to cases treated in hospitals, 4,592 injections have been given for these diseases.

The birth-rate exceeded the death-rate by 12·2 per thousand, an increase on the figure for 1924.

The population decreased by 360 owing to emigration.

The rate of infantile mortality for the year under review was :—St. Kitts, 22·0, Nevis, 17·5, and Anguilla, 9·0 per cent., the total for the Presidency being 19·5 per cent.

The Baby Saving League continued its function throughout the year, and has done all that can reasonably be expected with the funds at its command.

The Moogrol treatment of inmates of the Leper Home continued, and five of these had been discharged at the end of the year.

DOMINICA.

The financial year 1925–26 started with a deficit of £15,223 and closed with a deficit of £16,858.

The ordinary revenue for the year was £48,623; being £26 over the estimates, and £470 more than the revenue for the year 1924–25.

Imperial grants of £8,000 on account of deficit, 1924–25, and £5,000 for damage by storm of 5th October, 1924, were received and incorporated in the accounts for the year.

Export duty was short of the estimates by £1,241. This was offset by excesses under Excise Duty, £685, Income Tax, £375, and Passenger Ticket Duty, £323.

The ordinary expenditure for the year was £58,258, or £2,302 over the estimates, and £2,775 more than the expenditure for the year 1924–25.

Of the Imperial grants, £8,000 went to the reduction of the deficits of 1924–25 and 1925–26, and £4,252 of the £5,000 for storm damage was included in the total expenditure, leaving £748 as unexpended balance.

The value of imports during 1925 was £146,204, being £2,625 in excess of the year 1924.

With regard to imports, the duties collected during 1924–25 and 1925–26 are as follows :—

	1924–25.	*1925–26.*
	£	£
Import Duty other than Alcoholic...	17,420	18,447
Import Duty, Alcoholic	1,461	1,457

The value of exports during 1925 was £125,596, being £45,611 below the 1924 figures, which is due to a considerable amount of the 1923 crop having been shipped in 1924, thus causing the 1924 figures to be abnormal. The 1923 value of exports was only £122,668, whereas 1924 showed a value of £171,257.

AGRICULTURAL.

The Lime Industry.

The export figures for the year 1925 show a decrease of 194,000 barrels of limes when compared with those of the previous year. The difference between the two lots of figures, however, does not mean that there has been a great increase of Withertip disease. The previous year's high figures were accounted for by the large carry-over from 1923.

The crop shipped since 1919, calculated in barrels of fruit and expressed in round numbers, is recorded below :—

1919	402,000
1920	369,000
1921	516,000
1922	400,000
1923	228,000
1924	424,000
1925	230,000

The following table, calculated on the usual basis, shows the disposal of the crop under the various heads :—

Product.	*Barrels of fruit.*	*Approximate percentage of total crop.*
Concentrated juice ...	167,905	72·73
Raw juice	41,853	18·13
Fresh limes	20,218	8·75
Pickled limes	536	·23
Lime juice cordial	384	·15

Weather conditions throughout the year were generally favourable, and no severe storms were experienced as occurred in the previous year.

The export of products of the lime industry during 1925 is recorded below :—

Product.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
		£
Concentrated lime juice ...	111,937 gallons	32,221
Raw lime juice	313,896 ,,	19,767
Lime juice cordial	1,741 ,,	196
Fresh limes	20,218 barrels	22,669
Pickled limes	536 ,,	1,072
Essential oil of limes ...	46,349 lb.	19,785
		£95,710

Fifty gallons of concentrated juice represents 75 barrels of lime fruits; 7½ gallons of raw juice represents 1 barrel of lime fruits; 1 ton of citrate of lime is equivalent to 266 barrels of lime fruits; 1 ton of citric acid is equivalent to 400 barrels of lime fruits.

Minor Industries.

Coconuts.—During the year 1925 a good deal more interest was taken in the cultivation of this crop, several hundred acres being planted up. Planting is still going on and there is every prospect that several thousand acres will be under cultivation in the near future.

During the year, 225,000 coconuts were shipped, against 154,000 for the previous year, and 64,977 lb. of copra, against 46,173 lb. for 1924.

Ginger.—Following the encouraging report by the Imperial Institute on samples of Dominica white ginger, considerable areas were planted by several interested planters. The crop returns were very satisfactory.

The major portion of the crop was shipped as black ginger.

In the Windward district, owing to the damp conditions, difficulty was experienced in the drying. Experiments in artificial drying were, however, carried out and these proved to be very successful.

Coffee.—A large number of seedlings were again raised by the Agricultural Department, and some 7,000 plants, in addition to several thousand seeds, were distributed locally.

The one type asked for is *Coffea robusta*; there is no demand for any other variety.

Bananas.—The situation at present is still far from satisfactory. It is hoped, however, that some fruit company will be interested enough to let their ships call. Until something definite is known about this, there does not seem to be any prospect of planting on a large scale.

Nutmegs.—Considerable numbers of nutmegs are now being planted, and large orders have already been placed with the Agricultural Department for planting next year.

Vanilla.—Owing to the sudden drop in the price of vanilla, there has been no increase in the area under cultivation and the industry is for the time being at a standstill.

Tobacco.—During the year a Tobacco Growers' Association was formed with a central curing depot in Roseau. At the end of the year 18,298 lb. of leaf had been received. Out of this quantity, 1,043 lb. of cured tobacco were shipped to the English market for trial, but no report on it has so far been received.

A falling-off in the area under cultivation is to be regretted, but it is to be hoped that the Association's success in obtaining a black tobacco, for local sale, which meets with general approval, will stimulate people to again plant this crop.

GENERAL.

In February, 1925, Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G., paid his second visit to the Island in connection with the report which he was preparing, by direction of the Secretary of State, on the economic conditions in Dominica. A copy of his report was received towards the end of May, and it was laid before the Legislative Council in July; and the decision of His Majesty's Government regarding financial assistance as a result of the report is anxiously awaited.

In May, 1925, His Honour E. C. Eliot, Esquire, Administrator, proceeded to England on six months' leave. During his absence, His Honour Lt.-Colonel T. R. St.-Johnston, C.M.G., Administrator designate of St. Kitts-Nevis, administered the Government. During his tenure of office Lt.-Colonel St.-Johnston effected certain measures of retrenchment in public expenditure, and put through certain legislation with the object of raising additional revenue. He took up also, among other matters, the question of Poor Relief, and was responsible for providing increased accommodation for the aged and infirm of the Island by transferring the inmates of the Alexandra Cottage Home to the more commodious Quarantine Observation Station, which is now known by the name of the "Home for Aged and Infirm." The new institution was opened on 23rd September, 1925.

On 31st March, 1925, Mr. J. Jones, Curator of the Botanic Gardens and Agricultural Superintendent, retired on pension after 38 years' service. He was succeeded by Mr. F. G. Harcourt, Agricultural Superintendent of Antigua.

On 7th July, 1925, His Excellency Lt.-Colonel the Honourable Sir Eustace Fiennes, Bart., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony, formally opened the first session of the Legislative Council of Dominica under the new Constitution.

On 31st July, 1925, The Honourable Dr. H. A. A. Nicholls, C.M.G., Principal Medical Officer and Medical Officer of the Public Institutions, Senior Official Member of the Executive and Legislative Councils, retired on pension after close on 50 years' service in this Presidency.

In February, 1925, Mr. F. C. Clarkson, Colonial Engineer, commenced operations on the Roseau River protection wall, below Bath Estate Works. Some 267 feet of concrete wall was brought to its full height and 120 feet of rubble wall was built, when work had to be stopped on account of the break in the dry weather. The concrete wall is a fine piece of engineering work carried out under considerable difficulties. The portion of completed wall has already proved its usefulness in safeguarding the town of Roseau from further inundations, as in September the Roseau River rose to a height little short of that in October, 1924, and although the flood waters breached the temporary rubble wall erected at the end of the concrete wall the latter withstood the flood and sustained no damage and saved the lower portion of Roseau from again being flooded.

MONTSERRAT.

FINANCE.

The revenue for the financial year 1925–26 was £21,370, being an increase of £4,202 as compared with the previous year.

The increase is partially due to the gift of £2,300 as an Imperial grant for reconstruction of Government property damaged or destroyed by the hurricane of August, 1924.

The expenditure was £21,039, or a decrease of £3,014 as compared with the previous year. The decrease is due to the fact that no large public works of an extraordinary nature were undertaken, although many minor improvements have been carried out.

The excess of assets on the 1st April, 1925, stood at £880.

The public debt of the Presidency stands at £14,100, with a sinking fund amounting to £6,950. The financial year 1925–26 therefore closed with excess of assets amounting to £1,176.

The Presidency is in the healthy position of opening a new financial year, 1st April, 1926, with a reserve fund of £10,000 and a surplus of £1,176.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

The total imports amounted to £59,803, showing an increase of £6,608. This increase is largely due to the dearth of ground provisions during the early part of the year, owing to severe drought, thus causing a considerable increase in the importation of such commodities as flour, corn-meal, salt fish, etc. The importation of flour increased from £9,953 in 1924 to £10,286 in 1925; that of corn-meal from £651 in 1924 to £1,022 during 1925.

Exports amounted to £45,196, showing a decrease of £14,129 as compared with 1924. This decrease is, to all intents and purposes, entirely due to the short shipment of cotton. As against 1,230 bales shipped in 1924, only 923 bales, totalling 342,863 lb. of lint, were shipped during the year 1925; but for the early drought and the ravages of the pink boll worm, the yield would have been nearly double this amount.

Planters, on the whole, have had great difficulty in disposing of their holdings of cotton lint in England; sales have been spasmodic, with prices ranging from 25*d*. to 33*d*. per lb.

Of other articles of produce grown on a small scale, pines have been prominent. During practically the whole of the year the Montserrat Company have been able to place remarkably fine pines on the market from their property in the south of the Island. This Company has also been running, on sound business lines, an oil extraction plant, installed by them in 1924, which turns out first-class cotton meal, cotton cake, cotton seed oil, etc. This Company deserves every encouragement for the energy and enterprise it evinces in all matters of trade and commerce.

Onions, as an industry, are well worthy of development. At Woodlands, in the north, where experiments were carried out in 1924, results gave every promise of this crop being a remunerative one if handled on business and co-operative lines.

The growing of tobacco has received considerable attention, and little doubt is left that marketable tobacco can be grown if a stable market at remunerative prices can be assured. Eight thousand lb. of cured leaf tobacco were exported during the year. The Imperial Tobacco Company have the matter of marketing in hand and a full report is expected from them in the near future.

Agricultural conditions in the early part of the year left much to be desired, owing to the prolonged drought.

MEDICAL.

The new Hospital has more than justified the financial outlay on it. Approximately seventeen patients per month are being admitted, and operations per month average nine. Yaws received special attention and, thanks to the good results accruing, increased numbers of the labouring class voluntarily attend for treatment. The appointment of a Dispenser on the Hospital premises proved a valuable asset; the number of prescriptions made up averaged approximately 900 per month, while the Dispenser proved invaluable as a male attendant in the Hospital and operating theatre.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The Public Works Department were kept busy owing to the after effects of the hurricane of 1924. Considerable work had to be undertaken on the rebuilding and maintenance of roads. Over 14,500 barrels of macadam were laid on the main roads; an equally large percentage had to be provided for by-ways and the streets of Plymouth.

The permanent Government buildings received special attention and required thorough overhauling, due to deterioration and damage caused by the effects of the hurricane.

The ample and exceptionally good water supplies throughout the Island were maintained in good condition and required little attention.

Under the head "Public Works Extraordinary," the following works were completed :—

(1) Renovation of the Hospital and construction of Dispensary and private wards.

(2) Laying down of Southern Water Supply at a cost of £1,000.

(3) Completion of new Government offices.

(4) Construction of cell for the insane.

(5) Erection of wireless station.

(6) Construction of sea wall.

CRIME.

The year 1925 stands out as an exceptionally bad year as far as petty crime is concerned, the daily average of prisoners being 17·49, as compared with 7·8 in the previous year. This is entirely due to the fact that in the northern and Windward parts of the Island famine reigned for some four months owing to a severe drought, thus many petty cases of larceny, which in an ordinary year would have been covered by payments of small fines, resulted in imprisonment owing to scarcity of money. No crime of a serious nature was recorded during the year.

A small chapel was provided during the year within the precincts of the gaol and was greatly appreciated by the prisoners and Prison staff.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Marriages registered during the year showed an increase of four over the year 1924.

Births showed an increase of 134 when compared with 1924. The death-rate worked out at 24·41 per thousand, births exceeding deaths by 107.

GENERAL.

During the year the inter-Island Cricket Tournament took place, the Presidency being fortunate enough to carry off the trophy.

The inter-Island Shooting Competition also took place in the Presidency during the year. Although not fortunate enough to win the trophy, the Island came a good second, Antigua winning the competition by a short head.

As outlined in the report for 1924–25, economy and retrenchment have had to be the keynote throughout the present financial year.

Small as the Presidency is, she has held her own both in finance and sport, and enters on a fresh era full of hope and confidence.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The revenue for the financial year 1925–26 was £12,532, showing an increase of £4,660 as compared with the previous year. This increase is due to the Imperial grant of £3,950 and to payments under certain heads being under-estimated.

The expenditure for the year was £17,419, or an increase of £8,309 when compared with the previous year. Public Works Extraordinary and Police are the heads responsible for the excess. The former refers to expenditure on the new Government buildings amounting to the sum of £6,274 2*s.* 8*d.*, besides £3,950 from the Imperial grant-in-aid. The excess under Police is due to extra assistance after the hurricane.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The Presidency has a surplus of ...	927	18	8
and a Reserve Fund of	10,090	10	10
	£11,018	9	6

The value of imports and exports during the calendar year amounted to £34,443 and £10,909, respectively.

ADMINISTRATIVE.

Every effort has been made during the year 1925–26 to reduce expenditure, and a considerable saving has been effected under all heads with the exception of the two already mentioned, viz., Public Works Extraordinary and Police.

EDUCATIONAL.

The expenditure on grant-in-aid to primary schools during the year was £405 6*s*. 8*d*. This sum was distributed among eight schools with a total enrolment of 1,104 and an average attendance of 650. There were six prosecutions under the Education Act of 1925.

The Federal Inspector of Schools visited the Presidency in May and November and held the usual examinations.

MEDICAL.

Except for a small outbreak of typhoid fever, confined chiefly to the district of Huntums' Ghaut, Tortola, the Presidency enjoyed its usual freedom from serious epidemic. The spread of the disease in this settlement was due to the complete absence of latrine accommodation, and the disease was stamped out so soon as the people learnt to take the proper sanitary precautions with reference to the disposal of excreta.

During the year surveys of Road Town were made with reference to mosquito nurseries and latrine accommodation, and improvements were made in both matters.

The new Hospital, which was completed and officially opened during the year, is a pleasing structure and of great service to the community. An out-patient clinic has been established, where minor injuries and ailments are treated.

AGRICULTURAL.

The effects of the hurricane of August, 1924, are still apparent throughout the Presidency. The economic trees that escaped total destruction have received a serious set-back and will take a long time to recover. Coconuts, particularly, have suffered and show tardy signs of resuscitation, the nuts produced being scarcely the size of one's fist, as against nuts holding one to one-and-a-half litres of water. The year was one of drought and, in consequence, many of the catch crops suffered. However, the Agricultural Department has been active and has encouraged increased planting of tobacco, with satisfactory results. Cigars made at the station from leaf grown by the peasants have met with a ready sale.

Cotton.—This is a disappointing crop, and the results obtained have been far from satisfactory, due to the boll weevil and prolonged drought, and there appears to be very little inducement to plant in any quantity.

The sugar-cane crop has proved very satisfactory. Many of the peasants have taken advantage of the facilities offered at the Experiment Station for manufacturing muscavado sugar. The by-products—scum, skimming, and molasses—are used locally in making a good quality rum. In spite of the low price of sugar, that manufactured at the Experiment Station fetched a fairly good price, and the whole output is consumed locally.

The cigar and cane industries appear promising and will be given every encouragement and assistance.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The following new buildings were completed during the year :

Government House,
Hospital,
Medical Officers' quarters,

and the Government offices, Curator's quarters, Experiment Station's buildings, and the warehouses have been added to.

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LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1926—27.

(For Reports for 1924–25 and 1925–26 see Nos. 1283 and 1323, respectively (Price 1s. each).)

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LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1926-27.

INTRODUCTORY.

The Leeward Islands form the most northerly group of the "Lesser Antilles" in the West Indies and lie between 18° 27′ and 15° 10′. The Colony is a Federation comprising the five "Presidencies," formerly separate colonies, of Antigua; St. Christopher (usually called St. Kitts), with which Presidency is included Nevis; Dominica; Montserrat; and the Virgin Islands.

The Governments of the first three Presidencies are each administered by an "Administrator," while the officers in charge of the two smaller Presidencies of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands have the title of "Commissioner." All the Presidencies form together one Colony under a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who is resident at Antigua, the headquarters of the Colony. When the Governor is visiting the other Presidencies the Colonial Secretary assumes the office of Administrator of Antigua; and, when the Governor is absent from the Colony, the Government is administered in accordance with the Dormant Commission issued for the purpose.

Councils.—There is an Executive and a Legislative Council for the Colony, and also separate Executive and Legislative Councils for each of the four larger Presidencies, the Virgin Islands having only an Executive Council.

The Legislative Council of the Colony consists of 10 official and 10 elective members, three of the elective members being chosen by the unofficial members of the Antigua Legislative Council, three by those of St. Kitts-Nevis, two by those of Dominica, and one by those of Montserrat, and one is a person resident in the Virgin Islands, appointed by the Governor.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

During the financial year 1926-27 the total revenue (inclusive of £30,000 from Imperial funds) of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands was £289,393, made up as follows :—

	£
Antigua	81,283
St. Kitts-Nevis	88,103
Dominica	87,833
Montserrat	22,688
Virgin Islands	9,486
Total	£289,393

showing an increase of £21,791 in comparison with the revenue of the previous year.

The following Grants-in-Aid from the Imperial Government were made to the Presidency of Dominica during the year under report :—

	£
On account of the deficit of 1925-26	8,000
Sanitary campaign	4,000
Peasants' Information Bureau, coastal service and peasants' roads	4,600
Agricultural loans	13,400
	£30,000

Expenditure.

The total expenditure for the year 1926-27 was £259,037, made up as follows :—

	£
Antigua	80,736
St. Kitts-Nevis	86,418
Dominica	62,395
Montserrat	21,140
Virgin Islands	8,348
	£259,037

showing a decrease of £9,824 in comparison with the expenditure of the previous year.

The following table shows the amounts standing to the credit of the Reserve Fund on the 31st March, 1927 :—

	£	s.	d.
Antigua	10,809	15	3
St. Kitts-Nevis	10,750	0	0
Dominica	5,427	8	6
Montserrat	10,041	14	8
Virgin Islands	10,090	10	10
	£47,119	9	3

The excess of liabilities over assets of £7,818 1s. 1d. on the 31st March, 1927, was made up as follows :—

Presidency.	*Assets.* £	s.	d.	*Liabilities.* £	s.	d.
Antigua	—			6,137	0	0
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	3,919	13	6	—		
Dominica	—			10,426	7	7½
Montserrat ...	2,759	1	1	—		
Virgin Islands ...	2,066	11	11½	—		
	8,745	6	6½	16,563	7	7½
	7,818	1	1			
	£16,563	7	7½	£16,563	7	7½

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounted to £278,850 on the 31st March, 1927.

The following table shows the amount of loans raised and the amounts standing to the credit of sinking funds on 31st March, 1927 :—

Presidency.		*Total Amount of Loans Raised.*			*Amount to Credit of Sinking Fund.*		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Antigua ...	...	145,500	0	0	88,399	19	10
St. Kitts-Nevis	...	59,250	0	0	40,351	14	5
Dominica ...	...	60,000	0	0	42,583	13	7
Montserrat	...	14,100	0	0	7,688	0	0
		£278,850	0	0	£179,023	7	10

II.—IMPORTS, EXPORTS, AND SHIPPING.

Imports.

The total value of the imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1926 amounted to £842,464, as against £786,558 in 1925, being an increase of £55,906.

The following table shows the imports into each Presidency of the Colony :—

		United Kingdom.	*British Possessions.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
		£	£	£	£
Antigua ...	...	68,446	75,851	71,038	215,335
St. Kitts-Nevis	...	94,312	174,015	98,246	366,573
Dominica ...	...	48,833	71,743	44,308	164,884
Montserrat ...	...	15,718	33,545	14,092	63,355
Virgin Islands ...	...	1,927	12,342	18,048	32,317
Totals ...	...	£229,236	£367,496	£245,732	£842,464

Exports.

The total value of the exports for the year 1926 was £689,113, as against £727,862 in 1925, being a decrease of £38,749.

The following table shows the exports from each Presidency of the Colony :—

		United Kingdom.	*British Possessions.*	*Foreign Countries.*	*Total.*
		£	£	£	£
Antigua ...	...	58,560	122,355	56,655	186,570
St. Kitts-Nevis	...	104,815	163,005	19,903	287,723
Dominica ...	...	32,792	15,972	97,107	145,871
Montserrat ...	...	53,770	6,733	1,508	62,011
Virgin Islands ...	...	86	206	6,646	6,938
Totals ...	...	£250,023	£308,271	£130,819	£689,113

Shipping.

The following table shows the tonnage of shipping entered and cleared during the year :—

	British *Tons.*	*Foreign* *Tons.*	*Total* *Tons.*
Antigua	628,986	71,769	700,755
St. Kitts-Nevis	651,550	63,670	715,220
Dominica	564,242	69,764	634,006
Montserrat	314,006	2,876	316,882
Virgin Islands	16,473	2,707	19,180
Totals	2,175,257	210,786	2,386,043

III.—LEGISLATION.

Leeward Islands.

The General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands passed nine Acts during the year 1926. The most important of these are :—

(1) *The Criminal Law Amendment Act*, 1926, which amends the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1887, raising by one year the " age of consent " in the case of certain offences against girls.

(2) *The Loan-in-Aid Title by Registration Act*, 1926. This Act was passed to secure by legislation the repayment of advances to be made by the Governments of the Presidencies of Saint Christopher and Nevis, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands, to owners of land in the said Presidencies who had suffered damage by hurricane in the year 1924, in aid of the cotton and sugar industries of those Presidencies. The other Acts passed during the year were unimportant and were trifling amendments of existing legislation.

Antigua.

During the year 1926 fourteen Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of Antigua. Only three of these Ordinances may be regarded as being important, namely :—

(1) *The Carriage of Goods by Sea Ordinance*, 1926, which deals with the carriage of goods by sea from any port in the Presidency to any port outside of the Presidency. The rules dealing with the subject have been incorporated in the schedule to the Ordinance.

(2) *The Dangerous Drugs Ordinance*, 1926, which repeals the Opium Ordinance, 1913, and makes other provisions in lieu thereof.

(3) *The Water Works Amendment Ordinance*, 1926, which repealed Sections 18 and 19 of the Water Works Ordinance, 1923, and made other provisions in lieu thereof.

Dominica.

During the year, nine Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council. Of these *The Customs Import and Export Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance*, 1926, was passed to raise additional revenue. This Ordinance places the duty on essential oils exported from the Presidency on a sliding scale, and came into operation on the 16th September, 1926.

Of the other Ordinances passed the following appear to be the most important :—

The Exportation of Fruit Ordinance, 1926.—Under Section 4 of this Ordinance all fruit intended for export must be packed in a standard container which has to be marked on the outside with the name and identification mark of the shipper. Section 5 of the Ordinance provides for the appointment of a Fruit Inspector or Inspectors whose duty is to inspect the containers in which fruit is to be packed, and also to supervise the packing of fruit at licensed packing depots. By regulations under the Ordinance small fees are payable for inspection, &c., of fruit; these fees being imposed to cover the cost of the Inspector's travelling. The Ordinance was brought into operation on 1st September, 1926.

The Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1926.

The Carriage of Goods by Sea Ordinance, 1926.

The Alexandra Home Trustees' (Extended Powers) Ordinance, 1926.—This law empowers the Trustees of the Alexandra Home to administer all charitable gifts of every description which may be devised or bequeathed by will, not only for the benefit of the Alexandra Cottage Home or the Dominica Infirmary, but for the Roseau Hospital, or any other charitable purpose.

Montserrat.

The Legislative Council of Montserrat passed nine Ordinances during the year 1926. The most important of these are :—

(1) *The Motor-Car Tax Ordinance*, 1926, which imposes a tax on motor-cars and motor cycles.

(2) *The Carriage of Goods by Sea Ordinance*, 1926.

(3) *The Cotton Planting (Regulation) Ordinance*, 1926, which provides for a close planting season either for the whole Presidency or for such area or areas thereof as may be specified by Proclamation.

St. Christopher and Nevis.

During the year 1926 eleven Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of Saint Christopher and Nevis. *The Carriage of Goods by Sea Ordinance*, 1926, is the only Ordinance which may be regarded as being of importance. Most of the other Ordinances were passed to effect trifling amendments to existing legislation.

Virgin Islands.

The Governor made six Ordinances for the Presidency of the Virgin Islands during the year under review.

These Ordinances were all of a formal nature except *The Pigeon Ordinance*, 1926, which prohibits the keeping of pigeons in " Road Town " as defined by the Ordinance, without the written permission of the Commissioner.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Elementary.

The number of elementary schools in the Colony during the year under review was 104, distributed as follows :—

Presidency.	*Government.*	*State-aided.*	*Total.*
1. **Antigua**	18	2	20
2. **St. Kitts-Nevis**	16	2	18
Nevis	10	—	10
Anguilla	5	—	5
3. **Dominica**	24	4	28
4. **Montserrat**	—	13	13
5. **Virgin Islands**...	—	10	10
		Total	104

The numbers enrolled and in average attendance were :—

Whole Colony.	1925-26.	1926-27.
Number on roll	25,769	24,944
Average attendance	16,113	15,823.

The total expenditure in the primary schools, exclusive of salaries of the departmental officers and of establishment charges was £17,332 2*s.* 4*d.*, against £18,566 15*s.* 0½*d.* in the previous year.

Secondary.

The following is a list of the secondary schools in the Colony, with their respective grants :—

School.	*Grant.* £	*s.*	*d.*
1. Antigua Grammar School...	530	0	0
2. Antigua Girls' High School	200	0	0
3. Dominica Grammar School	643	0	0
4. St. Kitts-Nevis Grammar School ...	1,150	0	0
5. Excelsior School, Nevis	50	0	0
6. Thomas Oliver Robinson Memorial School, Antigua	50	0	0
7. Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, Antigua	240	0	0

A Scholarship of £150 a year for three years, tenable at a University to be approved by the Governor, is awarded on the results of the Cambridge School Certificate Examination. The Scholarship is open to both boys and girls under 19 years of age.

The primary schools in Antigua, Dominica, and St. Kitts-Nevis are all under direct Government control, and are managed by a Sub-Inspector of Schools in each Presidency.

In Montserrat and the Virgin Islands they are, with one exception, denominational, and are managed by the clergy of the various denominations, under the general control of the Education Boards. The schools are examined annually by the Inspector of Schools, and grants are awarded on the results of this examination. The pupil-teacher system is in vogue, the period of service being three years. Studentships are awarded to specially selected candidates, at the conclusion of their pupil teachership, for two years to complete their training as assistant teachers. Those for girls are held at the Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, Antigua, and those for boys at the Rawle Training Institute, Codrington College, Barbados.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

There is a Central Lunatic Asylum at Skerrets, Antigua, and two Leper Homes in the Colony, one at Rat Island, Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles, St. Kitts.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Prisoners sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment are sent to the Common Prison of the Leeward Islands, in Antigua, and immediately before the expiration of their sentences are returned to the Presidencies from which they were committed.

One hundred and seventy-one prisoners (94 males and 77 females) were admitted during the year. This is the lowest number of admissions on record. The highest number of prisoners in custody at any one time during the year was 87 (69 males and 18 females). The expenditure on the Central Prison was £2,218 4*s*. 1*d*. and the receipts £203 16*s*. 4*d*.

The daily average number of prisoners was 71. The cost of the maintenance of each prisoner was £28 7*s*. 5*d*.

There were no deaths in the prison, but two male prisoners died in the hospital during the year.

Accommodation of the prison :—

Males.

Separate cells	72	to hold	72
Association cells	7	.. ..	35
Infirmary ward	1	.. ..	9
Total for males			**116**

Females.

Separate cells ...	... ...	20 to hold	20
Association cells	... ...	3 " "	9
Infirmary ward	... ...	1 " "	3
Total for females...	...		32

Comparative table of Criminal Statistics for 1925 and 1926:—

	1925.	1926.
Cases reported to the police... ...	6,071	6,906
Number of cases brought before the Magisterial Courts	14,115	15,419
Summary convictions	9,050	10,602
Indictments in the Superior Courts	77	85
Convictions in the Superior Courts	41	39

St. John's Training School.

The St. John's Training School was established under the provisions of the Leeward Islands Act No. 4 of 1891, for the reformation, education, and training of boys under 18 years of age.

On the 1st April, 1926, there were 18 boys at the school. During the year, four boys were received. Three boys were discharged during the year, leaving 19 in the school on the 31st March, 1927. The daily average was 18. The expenditure was £375 18*s*. 6*d*., the cost per head to Antigua being £20 16*s*. 5*d*. The health of the school was good. The boys were employed in agricultural and garden work in addition to the ordinary work of the school.

VII.—POLICE.

The actual strength of the Force on the 31st December last was 6 Officers and 141 Non-commissioned Officers and Men. The authorised establishment, as provided for in the Colonial Estimates for the different Presidencies, was 6 Officers and 147 Non-commissioned Officers and Men. Dominica Division is much under-policed for its area, population, and the duties calling for discharge.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. Bell returned to the Colony from leave of absence in the United Kingdom, on the 20th February, 1926. Major C. H. Walker, Inspector, Dominica Division, left for England on sick leave on the 5th February, 1926, and retired medically unfit on the 14th September, 1926. Captain K. M. Leighton, from the Barbados Police, was appointed Inspector in the Leeward Islands Police on 8th October, 1926, and posted to Dominica. Sub-Inspector H. G. Bell accepted promotion in the Barbados Police and left for that Colony on the 31st December, 1926.

VIII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Colony according to the census of 1921 was 122,242, showing a decrease of 4,951 when compared with the census of 1911.

Antigua.

In Antigua the estimated population on the 31st December, 1926, was 29,648. The number of marriages registered in the Presidency in 1926 was 84, as against 93 in 1925, while the births were 1,067, being 35.98 per thousand. The legitimate births were 243 and the illegitimate births 824, the percentages being 22.77 and 77.23, respectively. The deaths during the year numbered 709, which gives a death-rate of 23.91 per thousand. The deaths of children under one year, exclusive of 85 still-births, numbered 143, or 20.17 per cent. of the total.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

In respect of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis, the number of inhabitants at the close of 1925 was estimated as follows:—St. Kitts 19,456, Nevis 12,135, Anguilla 4,565; the birth-rates in 1926 being: St. Kitts 47.2 per cent., Nevis 27.1, and Anguilla 27.6; while the death-rate for St. Kitts was 40.1 per thousand, for Nevis 17.7, and for Anguilla 17.9. The illegitimate birth-rate (1925) for St. Kitts was 78.0 per cent., for Nevis 60.6, and for Anguilla 53.6, as against the legitimate birth-rate of 22.0, 39.4, and 46.4 for St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla, respectively. There were 168 marriages as against 172 in the previous year.

The mortality of infants under one year of age was 186, 52, and 13 in St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla, respectively.

Dominica.

In Dominica the estimated population at the end of 1926 was 39,879. The births registered during the year numbered 1,527, as against 1,495 in 1925, giving a birth-rate of 38.29 per thousand. Illegitimate births exceeded the legitimate by 325 (926 as against 601), the percentage of legitimate and illegitimate births being, respectively, 39.36 and 60.64. The total number of registered deaths was 973, as against 827 in the previous year, while the death-rate was 24.39 per thousand.

Montserrat.

The report on the vital statistics for Montserrat in 1926 shows a population of 11,732 on the 31st December, 1926; the births registered being 417 as against 392 in 1925, and showing a birth-rate of 34.54. The legitimate births were 109, the illegitimate 308, the percentage being 26.03 and 73.97, respectively. The deaths registered were 167 as against 285 in 1925, and the death-rate was 14.23 per thousand, as against 24.41 per thousand in the previous year.

The marriages registered during the year under review were 52, showing an increase of 20 over the figures for the year 1925.

The general health of the Colony during the year was satisfactory.

IX.—METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Antigua.

The average annual rainfall for 70 stations was 50.20 inches. The average annual rainfall for 53 years is 43.70 inches; the rainfall for the calendar year under review being 6.50 inches above the average. It was well and equitably distributed and materially helped in the obtaining of favourable crops. The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 4.89 inches on 13th September, 1926, and the lowest temperature (65°) was registered on 7th February, and the highest temperature (92°) on 3rd and 4th August and in September.

The number of earthquakes recorded during the year was 5, on 17th May, 19th, 22nd, and 30th August, and 14th September.

St. Kitts.

The rainfall at La Guerite Station was 59.41 inches for the year 1926.

Dominica.

The mean rainfall at different stations was:—

	Inches.
11 Leeward Stations	71.54
4 Windward Stations	85.77
5 Inland Stations	154.30
5 Lasoye Stations	130.06

X.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of Messrs. Furness Withy and Company, Limited, the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Limited, Messrs. Pickford and Black, and the Colombian Line. The mails are conveyed between Tortola and St. Thomas and between Tortola and Virgin Gorda by a launch belonging to the Government, and by private boats, as follows:—

From Tortola to St. Thomas about four times a week.

From Tortola to Virgin Gorda about six times a month.

There is a fortnightly service by sailing-boat between St. Kitts and Anguilla.

Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other, the other West Indian Colonies, and Europe and America, by the cables of the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company.

There is no communication by telegraph with the Virgin Islands, but messages can be sent to that Presidency via St. Thomas. St. Kitts is in heliographic communication with Nevis.

There are wireless stations in Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat, operated by the Pacific Cable Board.

XI.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

His Excellency the Honourable Sir Eustace Fiennes, Bart., Governor, was absent on leave from the 19th July, 1926, to the 4th November, 1926, during which time Lieutenant-Colonel T. R. St. Johnston, Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, acted as Governor of the Colony.

Mr. M. M. Auchinleck was appointed to be Federal Treasurer and Treasurer of Antigua *vice* Mr. F. W. Griffith, who resigned from the Service on the 31st October, 1926.

Captain O. L. Hancock, O.B.E., Commissioner of the Virgin Islands, was transferred to the Gold Coast, and Mr. F. C. Clarkson was appointed to the Virgin Islands on the 3rd December, 1926.

HONOURS.

The following Honours were conferred by His Majesty during the year:—

> Mr. R. Bryson and Dr. W. M. McDonald to be Officers (Civil Division) of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.
>
> Major J. T. Dew, V.D., late Commanding Officer of the Antigua Defence Force, and Mr. D. K. Macwilliam, Harbour Master, St. Kitts, to be Members (Civil Division) of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.
>
> Mr. F. Maynard, late Chief Officer at the St. John's Training School, was awarded the Imperial Service Medal.

ANTIGUA.

Financial.

The revenue for the year 1926-27 amounted to £81,282 19*s*. 10*d*. The expenditure was £80,735 16*s*. 0*d*. The excess of revenue over expenditure was therefore £547 3*s*. 10*d*., which reduced the deficit of £6,684 3*s*. 10*d*., brought forward on the 1st April, 1926, to £6,137. Against this deficit the Crown Agents for the Colonies held at the close of the year, as a reserve fund, securities as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Face value	11,104	6	1
Cost	10,809	15	3
Market value on 31st March, 1927 ...	11,653	1	0

Revenue.

The revenue, estimated at £80,017, amounted to £81,282 19*s*. 10*d*., showing an increase of £1,265 19*s*. 10*d*. over the Estimates. £1,200 of this, however, represents reimbursements in aid of expenditure on country water supply from deposits on account of sales of Government lands and the Rental Assessment Fund.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The total revenue for 1926-27 was ...	81,283	0	0
The total revenue for 1925-26 was ...	81,676	0	0
The decrease being	393	0	0

The various heads of revenue show, as compared with the previous year, the following increases and decreases :—

Head.	*Increases.* £	*Decreases.* £
1. Customs	—	3,159
2. Port and Harbour Dues... ...	—	310
3. Licences	963	—
3a. Municipal Rates	51	—
4. Fees of Court	1,185	—
5. Post Office, &c.	991	—
6. Rents	66	—
7. Interest	—	8
8. Miscellaneous	276	—
9. Land Sales	6	—
10. Grants-in-aid	—	450

The large decrease under Head 1, Customs, is due chiefly to the financial depression that the Presidency passed through during the year 1926.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £80,735 16*s*. 0*d*., being £3,271 11*s*. 1*d*. more than estimated, and £1,732 1*s*. 9*d*. more than the previous year.

The expenditure showed decreases in most of the Heads, with the exception of substantial increases under Head 28 (Barbuda) of £2,736, and under Head 26 (Public Works Extraordinary) of £1,539.

The increase under Head 28, Barbuda, was due to the payment of four years' grant to Barbuda withheld during prosperous years and now paid to assist Barbuda, which is in a low financial condition.

The expenditure under Head 26 (Public Works Extraordinary) includes £1,200 reimbursements-in-aid spent on country water supply as previously mentioned.

The position of Antigua at the 31st March, 1927, shows a great improvement, and unless unforeseen difficulties occur the deficit of £6,137 should be wiped off by the end of 1927-28.

Agricultural.

From an agricultural standpoint the year 1926 was disappointing, the yield from the Antigua Sugar Factory, which may be accepted as a criterion, having fallen from 14,625 tons in 1925 to 10,522 tons in 1926. The price of sugar, too, had fallen commensurately, the average price obtained in 1926 being £13 14*s*. 11*d*. per ton as compared with £14 15*s*. 5*d*. in 1925. This was slightly off-balanced by an increased purity of juice and somewhat higher sucrose content, and subsequent recovery of sugar. The following extract from the Annual Report of the Antigua Sugar Factory for the year 1926 is explanatory :—

> "The Cane Crop this year has fallen considerably short of the previous year, mainly owing to less favourable weather. The Directors, however, desire to call attention to a further cause of deficient supply in the low yield of cane on some estates. The returns of the yield per acre from all the contracting proprietors show that some have failed to keep their plantations 'properly cultivated' in accordance with their contracts, and that if they had properly cultivated them, as other have done, their yield of cane per acre would have been 50 per cent. greater. Their failure in this respect has not only been injurious to their fellow-contractors and to the Company, as the profits for division depend on a full supply of cane, but it has been above all injurious to the estates themselves that have fallen short."

The following represents the total vacuum pan sugar manufactured :—

	Tons.
Antigua Central Sugar Factory	10,522
Bendals Sugar Factory	1,674
	12,196

The interests of Bendals Sugar Factory have been acquired by a local syndicate registered locally as the South Western Estates Company. It is difficult to estimate the output of the local muscovado factories, of which only one or two are in operation on a very minor scale, as much of this product is sold locally. During the year under review 26 tons only of muscovado sugar were exported. The quantities of molasses exported for the period in question were :—

	Gallons.
Vacuum pan molasses	382,836
Muscovado molasses	10,342

The railway line connecting the two Vacuum Pan Factories (Gunthorpes, Antigua Sugar Factory and Bendals Sugar Factory) referred to in the Report for 1925 was not utilised during the current year.

Cotton.—There was a considerable increase in the planting of Sea Island cotton owing to fair prospects of a remunerative price. The acreage under cultivation was considerably increased. Unfortunately, a wet season, while beneficial to the 1927 cane crop, proved inimical to the cotton crop. Yields were low and expenses increased by the constant need of dusting with paris green to counteract frequent and intensive attacks by the cotton worm (*Alabama sp.*). Pink boll-worm attack appeared early and no second picking was possible, in consequence the yield was low. The total exports for the year 1926 were 123,900 lb. lint as compared with 37,250 lb., reported for 1925, while the cotton seed exported amounted to 103,600 lb. As mentioned in the previous annual report the cotton grown by peasants was financed and dealt with through the Antigua Cotton Growers' Association—a private concern which does not derive any pecuniary benefit from its working, but which safeguards the interests of small growers by eliminating speculators and guaranteeing a second payment on a *pro rata* basis. During the season under review the Agricultural Department was relieved of this work (which was formerly carried on at the Botanic Station) and, instead, loans were made to the Antigua Cotton Factory to purchase peasants' cotton at a fixed rate, the Association to decide and distribute any subsequent bonus after marketing it to the best advantage. This has proved a very satisfactory innovation.

Onions.—Owing to the comparative smallness of the onion crop —once an important industry but now suffering from excessive competition from Dutch onions—it was decided not to open the onion drying houses maintained by the Onion Growers' Association under the supervision of the local Agricultural Department. In consequence all onions were shipped by private enterprise. The quantity so shipped for the year was 935 crates of 50 lb. each, or 46,750 lb.

Lime Industry.—The quantity of concentrated lime juice shipped during the year was 2,050 gallons, as compared with 500 gallons for 1925, while 2,950 gallons of raw juice and 87 barrels of lime fruit were also exported. This is a considerable increase over 1925 shipments but it points to the fact that lime cultivation can be considerably extended in Antigua and that there are many valleys and localities where considerable extension can be safely recommended. On the advice of Professor Briton Jones, of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, it would appear that Antigua is too dry to suffer from any considerable attack or even minor attack of withertip disease, and the extension of this industry can be and is being recommended.

Coconuts.—There is little improvement to report in this industry. The exports for 1926 were 4,200 nuts but it must be noted that many went into local consumption. Most of the coconuts used for domestic purposes in Antigua are exported from Dominica. The type of nuts grown locally are bold and large but the trees suffer from rats, scale insects, and aleuroidic parasitic hemiptera and are only now recovering from an extended period of drought.

The remaining agricultural items call for no special report. They include :—

Hides and skins to the value of £269.
Tamarinds, 537 barrels.
Seedwork, £391.

It would appear, with regard to the latter item, that the vogue for this type of bead decoration has dwindled and that although the exports for 1925 averaged £1,335 it has now decreased to £391, a decrease down to 37 per cent. of last year's value, despite the fact of much repeated advertisement at recent exhibitions.

Exhibitions, &c.—Covering the financial year 1926-27, two very successful exhibitions were held on 25th February, 1926, and 18th January, 1927. Both of these were unqualified successes. Owing to the efforts of His Excellency The Honourable Sir E. Fiennes, a surplus fund apart from any local allocation was available for both exhibitions, which materially helped to make each exhibition a success and to ensure, so far as the January, 1927, exhibition was concerned, a still greater effort in which every branch in the community co-operated. From every standpoint these annual exhibits are a material help to local agriculture and should be encouraged in every way.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

The annual revenue for 1926-27 was £88,103, an excess of £1,103 over the revised estimate and £998 over the revenue received during the previous year.

The actual expenditure for the same year was £86,418, being less by £2,470 than the expenditure for 1925-26. No addition was made to the Reserve Fund which still remains invested at £10,750.

The most important public works carried out during the year were the construction of a Home for the Infirm on the La Guerite Lands immediately west of Basseterre. Other special works completed are a reinforced concrete Gasolene Warehouse, reconstruction, in concrete, of the sea end of the Treasury Pier, a War Memorial of reinforced concrete in the form of a triangular column about 18 feet high immediately in front of the flagstaff on the Bay Front, and a Chapel at the Leper Home; the last being erected entirely from public subscriptions. The laying out of Warner Park, in commemoration of the tercentenary of the colonization of St. Kitts, was well advanced at the end of March.

At the close of the year 1926-27 the public debt (taking into account the amounts to the credit of the Sinking Funds) stood at £18,898.

The surplus on the 31st March amounted to £3,919.

The value of imports for the calendar year 1926 totalled £366,573, exceeding the previous year's figures by £73,756.

The value of exports totalled £287,723, exceeding by £8,086 the figures for 1925.

Sugar.—In 1926 a crop of 16,290 tons of grey crystal sugar was produced. This shows an increase of 727 tons on the crop of 1925. The average rainfall for the island for the year was 43.54 inches, which was 9.51 inches below the average for the past twelve years. Fortunately the rainfall was well distributed throughout the year and this accounted for the very satisfactory crop of sugar cane. The railway of the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory, Limited, round the island was completed, which enabled the traffic to be handled with greater safety, economy, and speed.

This year completed the first fifteen years of the work of the Basseterre Sugar Factory, Limited, and in accordance with the agreement the ' B ' shares will now be distributed to the planters and the payments against cane during the next season and thereafter will be raised to 5½ per cent., with bonus as hitherto.

The export of sugar for the year was 15,651 tons grey crystals, 19,309 gallons fancy syrup, and 377,913 gallons factory molasses. The price for grey crystal sugar dropped from £14 18s. 2d. per ton in 1925 to £13 7s. 1d. per ton in 1926.

The Cotton Industry.—The total acreage under cotton was about 3,700 acres. In St. Kitts the total produced was 244,697 lb. of lint, an average of about 110 lb. of lint per acre. This low return can be attributed to unsatisfactory weather conditions and to the prevalence of the cotton leaf worm during the season.

In Nevis the returns were more satisfactory than in 1925, and about 100,000 lb. of lint was produced, an average of about 70 lb. of lint per acre. In Anguilla the cotton crop was a failure owing to damage by the pink boll-worm, only about 4,000 lb. of lint being produced. The total crop produced in the Presidency for the year was 348,697 lb. of lint.

Coconuts.—The number of coconuts exported during the year was 108,300, which is in considerable excess of the amount exported in 1925.

There was an epidemic of measles during the early months of the year, traced to a case imported among labourers returning from Santo Domingo. The primary schools were closed from 17th February to 12th April to minimize the spread. There were 33 deaths directly attributable to this disease. The birth-rate exceeded the death-rate by 8.5 per thousand. The population decreased by 441 owing to emigration. The rate of infantile mortality for the year under review was 19.4 per cent. for the whole Presidency. The Baby Saving League continued its functions throughout the year. Owing, however, to the decrease in voluntary subscriptions the organization has been mainly supported by an increased Government grant-in-aid.

The campaign against venereal diseases and yaws has continued its work. In addition to the cases treated in the hospitals, 7,792 injections have been given.

The moogrol treatment of inmates of the Leper Home has been maintained, and twelve inmates have been discharged, on *parole*, during the year. The treatment has also been extended to "early cases," not segregated, in the Home and satisfactory results are being obtained.

DOMINICA.

Financial.

The financial year 1926-27 started with a deficit of £16,858 and closed with a deficit of £10,426.

The ordinary revenue for the year was £57,833, being £5,725 over the Estimate and £9,210 more than the revenue for the year 1925-26.

Imperial grants of £8,000 on account of deficit 1925-26, £4,000 for sanitary campaign; £4,600 for Peasants' Information Bureau, Coastal Service and peasants' roads; and £13,400 for agricultural loans were received and incorporated in the accounts for the year.

The drop in revenue from excise duty on tobacco is partly due to the transition period from imported leaf tobacco to the locally-manufactured leaf tobacco, owing to the fact that considerable stocks of imported leaf tobacco were in the hands of merchants and others which had to be disposed of before the locally-manufactured tobacco could be taken. It is believed that the excise duty on tobacco will show better results during the year 1927-28.

The ordinary expenditure for the year was £56,151; £1,542 below the Estimate and £2,107 less than the expenditure for the year 1925-26.

Of the Imperial grants £4,750 was devoted towards the reduction of the deficit of 1925-26; £1,693 for storm damage and Roseau Hospital improvements; £604 for sanitary campaign; £1,282 for agricultural development; and £2,664 for agricultural loans; leaving unexpended balances amounting to £19,754.

The value of imports during 1926 was £164,884, showing an increase of £18,680 over 1925.

With regard to imports the duty collected during 1925-26 and 1926-27 is as follows:—

	1925-26.	1926-27.
	£	£
Other than alcoholic	18,447	18,657
Alcoholic	1,457	1,520

The value of exports during 1926 is £145,871, being £20,275 in excess of 1925.

Agricultural.

The Lime Industry.—The export figures for the year 1926 show a decrease of 16,000 barrels of limes, when compared with those of the previous year. This decrease is largely attributable to a severe storm which struck the island during the night of the 22nd July, 1926. Lime estates were particularly affected, hundreds of trees were completely destroyed and a greater number were twisted and partially torn from the ground. The actual loss of fruit could not be determined as heavy rains carried a large quantity into the sea, and immature limes no larger than peas, consequently of no economic value, were stripped from the trees.

The loss experienced by planters from this catastrophe was to some extent alleviated by the unprecedented rise in the price of limes and lime oils later in the year.

Ripe limes realised up to 12s. per barrel, as against 4s. 8d. the previous year. Lime oils realised up to 31s. per lb. for distilled, and 40s. per lb. for expressed.

The crop shipped since 1919, calculated in barrels of fruit and expressed in round numbers, is recorded below:—

	Barrels.	
1919	402,000	Prior to appearance of withertip.
1920	369,000	
1921	516,000	
1922	400,000	
1923	228,000	
1924	424,000	
1925	230,000	
1926	214,000	

The following table, calculated on the usual basis,* shows the disposal of the crop under various heads.

Product.	*Barrels of fruit.*	*Approximate percentage of total crop.*
Concentrated juice	156,021	73.00
Raw juice	35,834	16.76
Fresh limes	21,171	9.90
Pickled limes	287	.13
Lime-juice cordial	413	.19

But for the storm mentioned above the weather conditions were generally favourable throughout the year.

The exports of products of the lime industry during 1926 is recorded below :—

Product.	*Quantity.*	*Value.* £
Concentrated lime juice ...	104,014 gallons.	25,105
Raw lime juice	268,760 „	11,376
Lime-juice cordial	2,275 „	474
Fresh limes	21,171 barrels.	12,651
Pickled limes	278 „	215
Essential oil (distilled) ...	33,471 lb.	26,559
Otto of limes (handpressed or ecuelled).	9,381 „	11,175
		£87,555

In spite of withertip disease, the West Indian lime is still being profitably grown on the drier lands of the leeward coast and the cultivation of this crop is being extended in these localities.

Fruit Industry.—This industry received a serious set-back during the year through lack of suitable steamship facilities between the West Indian Islands and Canada.

With the signing of the West Indies-Canada Trade Agreement an improved service is, however, assured for the future, and undoubtedly a larger export fruit trade will result. Meanwhile, much interest and activity is being displayed generally in this industry, and the Agricultural Department has had to establish new nurseries to meet the demand for fruit plants, particularly Washington navel orange, grape fruit, Avocado pears, and grafted mangoes.

*** 50 gallons of concentrated juice represents 75 barrels of lime fruits : 7½ gallons of raw juice represents 1 barrel of lime fruits : 1 ton of citrate of lime is equivalent to 266 barrels of lime fruits : 1 ton of citric acid is equivalent to 400 barrels of lime fruits : 1 gallon of lime-juice cordial represents 5½ barrels of lime fruits.**

Bananas.—The situation at present is still far from being satisfactory. It is hoped, however, that some fruit company will be interested enough to let their ships call. Until something definite is known about this there does not seem to be any prospect of planting on a large scale. An Ordinance to regulate the examination and exportation of fruit and to prohibit the shipment of defective fruit came into operation on the 1st September, and officers of the Agricultural Department were appointed ex officio as Fruit Inspectors.

Coconuts.—Continued interest and activity is being shown in this industry and the Agricultural Department is establishing coconut nurseries in country districts in order that selected planting material may be more easily obtained by peasants.

There was an increase of roughly 44,000 lb. of copra shipped during the year, 109,037 lb. being exported as compared with 64,977 lb. for 1925.

Cocoa.—The high price ruling during the year has encouraged growers to extend their cultivation.

Coffee.—Is receiving particular attention and large areas are being planted both by planters and peasants.

Ginger.—Although there was a large increase in the export of this product in 1926, it is doubtful if this industry will reach large proportions in Dominica, low prices and the difficulty of drying being the factors militating against it.

Nutmegs.—The demand on the Agricultural Department for plants continues and undoubtedly nutmeg growing will ultimately be one of Dominica's principal minor industries.

Vanilla.—A steady increase in planting has to be recorded.

Tobacco.—Lack of interest by planters is noticeable, but the demand for seed from the peasantry has increased. The Tobacco Growers' Association continues to supply the local market with "black leaf" tobacco, and has reported a satisfactory year's working.

General.—As the outcome of the recommendations made by Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G., for amelioration of the economic conditions of Dominica which were approved in principle generally by the Secretary of State, a Board called The Loan Board for Approved Industries was set up on the 18th May, 1926, for the purpose of administering the funds provided by His Majesty's Government to assist planters and for carrying out the recommendations contained in Sir Francis Watts' Report.

The Personnel of the Board is as follows :—

His Honour E. C. Eliot, Esquire, Administrator, *Chairman ;*

The Honourable F. B. B. Shand, Crown Attorney, Legal Adviser ;

The Honourable H. A. Bascom, Treasurer ;

The Honourable F. G. Harcourt, Agricultural Superintendent, Expert Adviser ;

The Honourable H. H. V. Whitchurch } Unofficial Members.
The Honourable J. R. H. Bridgewater }

and Mr. R. B. Skinner, Chief Clerk, Administrator's Office, Secretary to the Board.

The Board has dealt with many applications for loans, a number of which have been approved and advances made.

In order to assist further the peasant proprietors, and others who are not in a position to purchase economic plants, the Secretary of State approved of a grant for the free distribution of plants, and the Agricultural Department has been active in the propagation of the necessary plants. Chains of coconut nurseries have been established round the island to facilitate the distribution of seed nuts.

On the 9th February, 1926, the death occurred of Sir Henry Nicholls K.C.M.G., late Principal Medical Officer, who had retired on pension on the 31st July, 1925, after close on 50 years' service to this Presidency.

On the night of the 22nd July, 1926, the island was struck by a severe storm which resulted in serious damage to the lime crop and heavy loss to planters and to the revenue. Considerable damage was also done to the electric light and telephone services, to the import and Bell jetties and a portion of the Bay Front, Roseau. The approach to the Copt Hall bridge on the southern bank was again carried away and numerous landslides occurred on the mountain roads in various parts of the island. The damage amounted to £1,800 and the Imperial Government once again generously came to the assistance of the Presidency by making a grant to cover the cost of this damage.

Owing to the unprecedented rise in the price for essential oils, and the imposition of an export duty on a sliding scale, and also the gradual improvement in the economic conditions generally, the estimate of revenue for the year 1926-27 was exceeded by £5,725.

MONTSERRAT.

Financial.

Revenue.—The revenue for the financial year 1926-27 amounted to £22,688, showing an increase of £1,317 over that of 1925-26.

Expenditure.—The expenditure for the year amounted to £21,140, as against £21,040 in 1925-26, being an increase of £100. There is an important increase in expenditure under Head XXVI, Public Works Extraordinary, due to the expenditure of £1,400 on the laying down of water supplies at Gages and the windward part of the Island.

Surplus.—The surplus funds increased from £1,212 in 1925-26 to £2,759 on the 31st March, 1927.

Public Debt.—The public debt on the 31st March, 1927, was £14,100, with £7,688 to the credit of the Sinking Funds.

Imports and exports.—The value of imports and exports during the calendar year 1926 rose from £59,803 and £45,197 to £64,949 and £62,713, respectively.

Agricultural.

Cotton.—Owing to favourable conditions the Sea Island cotton crop was above the average, the total export of Sea Island cotton being 600,217 lb. of lint. Practically the whole of the crop was sold on the spot to the Fine Spinners' Representative, Mr. Wyldy. The pink boll-worm did little damage but gave no chance of any second picking.

Onions.—Onion cultivation received a big impetus and over 400,000 lb. of onions were exported. It was expected that New York would be a ready market, but results did not come up to expectations, market prices ruling low due to the condition in which the onions were packed, and not sufficient attention being paid to selection.

Until growers realize that the utmost care must be taken in selection and packing, good market prices will not be obtained in this market where keen competition rules.

Sugar.—26¾ tons of Muscovado sugar were exported. Of this, 23½ tons found their way to the Canadian market where prices ruled at approximately 5 cents. per lb. A considerable quantity of island muscovado sugar was used locally.

Minor Products, such as papain, pine-apples, Avocado pears, show a marked increase in development.

Medical.

No epidemic diseases occurred during the year. The special attention given by the Medical Department against yaws proved most successful. The birth-rate exceeded the death-rate by 20.60 per thousand.

The rate of infantile mortality shows a marked improvement, showing a reduction of 2.89 per thousand. This is largely due to the available spending-power of the peasant proprietor and to the efforts of the Matron of the Hospital, who is also in charge of midwives.

Public Works Department.

During the year two important water supplies were carried out; the villages of Bethel, Long Ground, etc., being supplied with an adequate water supply. A water supply was also established, enabling the villages of Gages and St. George's Hill to receive an abundant supply of exceptionally good water.

Heavy rains caused considerable damage to the main roads of the island, resulting in heavy expenditure.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Financial.

The estimated revenue for the financial year 1926-27 was £8,467 but the actual revenue amounted to £9,486 6*s*. 0½*d*., an excess of £1,019 6*s*. 0½*d*. over the Estimates. All the ordinary Heads of Revenue exceeded the estimated amounts by a total of £1,590 4*s*. 1*d*. Unfortunately the Agricultural Department receipts fell short of the Estimates by £577 18*s*. 0½*d*., principally in cotton, sugar, and tobacco.

The estimated expenditure for the year was £8,277, but £8,347 12*s*. 9*d*. was actually spent, being an excess of £70 12*s*. 9*d*. on the Estimates. The revenue exceeded the expenditure by £1,138 13*s*. 3½*d*. Sale of postage stamps was responsible for £1,507 16*s*. 0*d*. of the revenue.

The Surplus Funds on 31st March, 1927, were £2,066 11*s*. 11½*d*., together with a reserve fund of £10,090 10*s*. 10*d*.

The value of *exports* and *imports* during the calendar year amounted to £6,938 and £32,317, respectively, and the total tonnage of shipping was £16,473.

Public Works Extraordinary.

The sum of £123 15*s*. 9*d*. was expended principally on finishing off the various public buildings started in 1924-25.

Savings Bank.

	£	*s*.	*d*.
Deposits during the year amounted to ...	1,368	16	11
Withdrawals	1,083	12	9

At the end of the year there was £1,553 19*s*. 9*d*. in the Bank to the credit of depositors. Bank surplus amounted to £74 8*s*. 11*d*.

Educational.

There are ten elementary schools in the Virgin Islands, with an enrolment of 1,235 as against 1,104 in the previous year, and an average attendance of 773, an increase of 123 on the previous year.

The expenditure on Grant-in-aid amounted to £572 1*s*. 11*d*. during the year. There were 19 prosecutions under the Education Act of 1925, with fines totalling £2 3*s*. 0*d*. Two visits by the Federal Inspector of Schools were paid to the Presidency during the year and the usual examinations were held.

Medical.

The general health of the Presidency has been unusually good. The influenzal type of fever which usually occurs every autumn did not make its appearance this year. An epidemic of typhoid fever was introduced by a carrier from America early in the year and resulted in forty cases with eight deaths. Prompt measures were taken to combat it and the disease was effectively stamped out. An active campaign against yaws was undertaken and this disease, though never very prevalent here, has been much relieved.

All schools in the Presidency were visited and five hundred and two children vaccinated against smallpox. There have been 100 deaths during the year. Taking the population as 5,100, this gives a death-rate of 18.80 per 1,000.

Agricultural.

The year under review was one of exceptional drought, consequently all crops suffered to a large extent. There was no cotton crop. Cane was poor and the tobacco and cigar industry suffered a severe set-back. The coconuts that were damaged in the hurricane of August, 1924, show very slow progress of recovery. During the year some 1,500 imported coconut seedlings from Nevis were sold to the peasants to replace those lost in August, 1924, and a trial was made with pines from Porto Rico but with very little general success.

General.

The roads, jetties and buildings were maintained. New lamps were placed in the streets of Road Town and minor repairs effected. The Government motor-boat continued to give satisfaction and ran regularly.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1419.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1927-28

(For Reports for 1925-26 and 1926-27 see Nos. 1323 and 1371, respectively (Price 1s. each.).)

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LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1927-28.

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INTRODUCTORY.

The Leeward Islands form the most northerly group of the "Lesser Antilles" in the West Indies and lie between 18°27′ and 15°10′. The Colony is a Federation comprising the five "Presidencies," formerly separate colonies, of Antigua; St. Christopher (usually called St. Kitts), with which Presidency is included Nevis; Dominica; Montserrat; and the Virgin Islands.

The Governments of the first three Presidencies are each administered by an "Administrator," while the officers in charge of the two smaller Presidencies of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands have the title of "Commissioner." All the Presidencies form together one Colony under a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who is resident at Antigua, the headquarters of the Colony. When the Governor is visiting the other Presidencies the Colonial Secretary assumes the office of Administrator of Antigua; and when the Governor is absent from the Colony the Government is administered in accordance with the Dormant Commission issued for the purpose.

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Councils.—There is an Executive and a Legislative Council for the Colony, and also separate Executive and Legislative Councils for each of the four larger Presidencies, the Virgin Islands having only an Executive Council.

The Legislative Council of the Colony consists of ten official and ten elective members, three of the elective members being chosen by the unofficial members of the Antigua Legislative Council, three by those of St. Kitts-Nevis, two by those of Dominica, and one by those of Montserrat, and one is a person, resident in the Virgin Islands, appointed by the Governor.

1.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

During the financial year 1927-28 the total revenue (inclusive of £8,500 from Imperial funds) of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands was £288,572, made up as follows :—

	£
Antigua	93,436
St. Kitts-Nevis	94,161
Dominica	68,815
Montserrat	22,426
Virgin Islands	9,734
	£288,572

showing a decrease of £731 in comparison with the revenue of the previous year.

The following Grants-in-Aid from the Imperial Government were made to the Presidency of Dominica during the year under report :

	£
Peasants' Information Bureau	6,000
Agricultural Loans	2,500
	£8,500

The following expenditure was charged against Imperial Grants :

	£	s.	d.
Public Works Extraordinary	1,543	5	2
Sanitary Campaign	3,844	16	2
Agricultural	1,601	10	8
Agricultural Loans	13,235	18	9
	£20,225	10	9

Expenditure.

The total expenditure for the year 1927-28 was £284,203, made up as follows :—

	£
Antigua	83,149
St. Kitts-Nevis	93,113
Dominica	80,715
Montserrat	19,986
Virgin Islands	7,240
	£284,203

showing an increase of £25,166 in comparison with the expenditure of the previous year.

The following table shows the amount standing to the credit of the Reserve Fund on the 31st March, 1928 :—

	£	s.	d.
Antigua	11,457	12	3
St. Kitts-Nevis	10,750	0	0
Montserrat	10,041	14	8
Virgin Islands	10,090	10	10
	£42,339	17	9

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st March, 1928, was £8,274 9s. 5d., made up as follows :—

Presidency.	*Assets.*			*Liabilities.*		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Antigua	4,149	6	5½	—		
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	4,966	16	10	—		
Dominica ...	—			10,601	2	11
Montserrat ...	5,199	3	8½	—		
Virgin Islands ...	4,560	5	4	—		
	£18,875	12	4	£10,601	2	11
	—			8,274	9	5
	£18,875	12	4	£18,875	12	4

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounted to £288,650 on the 31st March, 1928.

The following table shows the amount of loans raised and the amounts standing to the credit of the sinking funds on 31st March, 1928 :—

Presidency.	*Total Amount of Loans Raised.* £	s.	d.	*Amount to Credit of Sinking Fund.* £	s.	d.
Antigua	145,300	0	0	87,998	2	1
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	69,250	0	0	42,518	8	7
Dominica ...	60,000	0	0	45,196	4	1
Montserrat ...	14,100	0	0	8,323	8	2
	£288,650	0	0	£184,036	2	11

II.—IMPORTS, EXPORTS, AND SHIPPING.

Imports.

The total value of the imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1927 amounted to £854,316 as against £842,464 in 1926 being an increase of £11,852.

The following table shows the imports into each Presidency of the Colony :—

	United Kingdom. £	*British Possessions.* £	*Foreign Countries.* £	*Total.* £
Antigua	91,957	81,192	91,269	264,418
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	119,075	116,971	93,372	329,418
Dominica	51,335	69,298	47,997	168,630
Montserrat	16,720	33,826	12,654	63,200
Virgin Islands ...	2,497	12,787	13,366	28,650
	£281,584	£314,074	£258,658	£854,316

Exports.

The total value of the exports for the year 1927 was £987,229 as against £689,113 in 1926, being an increase of £298,116.

The following table shows the exports from each Presidency of the Colony :—

	United Kingdom. £	*British Possessions.* £	*Foreign Countries.* £	*Total.* £
Antigua	111,208	280,472	5,037	396,717
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	114,704	221,672	17,097	353,473
Dominica	46,538	15,812	93,456	155,806
Montserrat	52,299	10,261	6,193	68,753
Virgin Islands ...	603	326	11,551	12,480
	£325,352	£528,543	£133,334	£987,229

Shipping.

The following table shows the tonnage of shipping entered and cleared during the year :—

	British Tons.	*Foreign Tons.*	*Total Tons.*
Antigua	921,378	160,326	1,081,704
St. Kitts-Nevis	937,254	148,926	1,086,180
Dominica	672,734	111,584	784,318
Montserrat	402,747	1,619	404,366
Virgin Islands	13,540	3,642	17,182
Totals	2,947,653	426,097	3,373,750

III.—LEGISLATION.

Leeward Islands.

There were thirteen Public General Statutes passed by the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands during the year, and one Private Act. Of the Public General Statutes the following may be noticed :—

The Indictments Act, No. 1 *of* 1927, amends the procedure upon Indictments presented in the Supreme Court so as to bring that procedure in line with the procedure in England under the Indictments Act, 1915.

The forms set out in the appendix to the rules in the English Act, 1915, are adopted *mutatis mutandis.*

A Rule Committee is appointed and has power to make rules and also to annul the rules in the Schedule. Provisions are made in respect of joinder of felonies and misdemeanours, and for safeguarding any person accused, if in the opinion of the Court embarrassment is caused to the defence by joinder.

Railway Offences Act, No. 6 *of* 1927.—Up to the passing of this Act there was no Statute in the Colony providing specifically for offences in respect of railways. This Act makes it a felony punishable by imprisonment for any term not exceeding three years hard labour for any person unlawfully and maliciously to injure certain railway property or to throw anything on any railway or truck ; and makes it a misdemeanour, punishable for any term not exceeding two years, unlawfully to throw anything liable to explode, etc., on a railway ; or to remove or displace any railway points. It is also made a misdemeanour by wilful omission or neglect to endanger the safety of any person conveyed or being upon any railway.

The Bills of Exchange Act, 1887, *Amendment Act*, 1927, *No.* 7 *of* 1927.—This Act amends the Bills of Exchange Act, 1887, by allowing the noting of the dishonour of a Bill to be made on the day succeeding the dishonour instead of it being necessary as before to note the Bill on the day of its dishonour. The Act also provides that a draft drawn by a banker on the head office or branch in the Colony, payable to order or demand, shall be deemed to be a Bill for the purpose of the protection accorded to a banker who pays a Bill in good faith upon a forged endorsement.

The Pensions Amendment Act, No. 5 *of* 1927, confers the right on every public officer who is eligible for pension to commute a portion of his pension for a gratuity, provided his election is notified within six months after he becomes eligible for pension. Provision is also made for the payment of a gratuity to women upon marriage, and power is conferred on the Governor in Council to grant to the personal representative of an officer, holding a pensionable office, who dies in the service of the Colony one year's pensionable emoluments. The pension of an officer who is re-employed in the Colony after retirement is dealt with, and such an officer may, in certain cases, receive a separate pension in respect of his re-employment.

The Act was brought into force by Proclamation on the 1st day of September, 1927.

The Overseas Nurses' Pensions Act, No. 13 *of* 1927, provides for the payment of a pension to Nurses receiving an appointment through the Overseas Nursing Association after three years' service in the Colony, provided that her total public service is fifteen years, but no pension is payable until the age of 50 years unless the retirement is on account of illness. Certificates of satisfactory service must be produced.

Antigua.

During the year, 24 Statutes were passed by the Legislative Council of Antigua, the greater number of which were amendments to the Revenue Laws. Only three of these Ordinances are likely to be of interest, viz. :—

The Customs Duties Ordinance, No. 11 *of* 1927, which provides for giving effect to the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement of 1925 and consolidates the law relating to customs duties.

The Governor (exemption from taxation) Ordinance, No. 13 *of* 1927, which exempts the Governor from all taxes in force in the Presidency.

The Turtle Ordinance, No. 17 *of* 1927, which makes it an offence to catch or take turtle or turtle eggs between the 1st of June and the 30th of September, or to expose them for sale between those days, and limits the size of turtles which may be caught or taken. The same restrictions are made to apply in respect of tortoises from the 1st of April to the 31st of July, both days inclusive. A penalty not exceeding ten pounds is imposed. Power to arrest is given to any constable suspecting an offence and any instruments or things used in catching turtle or tortoises are forfeited.

Dominica.

There were twenty-two Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council of Dominica during 1927. The following deserve something more than passing notice :—

The Plants Protection Ordinance, No. 2 *of* 1927, provides for steps to be taken for the eradication of any disease or pest and provides that the occupier of land may be required totally to destroy any tree, shrub or herb. Compensation may be granted if it becomes necessary to destroy any healthy trees, shrubs or herbs.

The Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, No. 3 *of* 1927.—This Ordinance was passed in order to comply with the Dangerous Drugs Convention signed at Geneva in 1926, and forbids the cultivation of the poppy plant or of Indian hemp, and prevents the dealing in opium and other dangerous drugs except by licence and under severe restriction.

The Turtle Ordinance, No. 16 *of* 1927, creates a close season for turtle and tortoises, and makes it an offence to take turtle or tortoises in the close season.

The Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, No. 17 *of* 1927, forbids the establishment of any wireless telegraph station unless under licence and forbids the working of any wireless telegraphy on board any foreign ship of war, or on board any ship, British or foreign, while in territorial waters, other than in accordance with the regulations in the Schedule to the Ordinance.

Two Ordinances, the Coastwise Traffic Ordinance, 1927, and the Passengers Ordinance, 1927, provide for safety at sea. The former, applicable to coastwise traffic only, enables the Governor in Council to provide for the examination of open boats or motor-boats in order to ascertain the number of persons and the amount of cargo which may safely be carried, and for imposing restrictions; also for prescribing the qualifications of persons performing the duties in connection with the working of the boats. The latter applies to all ships except motor-boats plying in harbours and bays in territorial waters, and all ships of His Majesty, or to any ship to which Part 3 of the Merchant Shipping Act of 1884 applies, or to steamships of 500 tons burden. The Ordinance limits the number of passengers which a ship may carry to one per ton and provides for life-saving appliances. Power is given for detaining any British ship registered in the Colony which there is reason to believe is unsafe.

The Fishery Ordinance, No. 20 *of* 1927, prohibits fishing in the territorial waters of the Presidency from any ship unless a British ship or licensed under the provisions of another Statute in force in the Presidency.

Montserrat.

Of twelve Ordinances passed during the year the following may be specially noticed :—

The Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, No. 2 of 1927.—This Ordinance was passed in order to comply with the Dangerous Drugs Convention signed at Geneva in 1926, and forbids the cultivation of the poppy plant or of Indian hemp, and prevents the dealing in opium and other dangerous drugs except by licence and under severe restriction.

The Safety Match Ordinance No. 4 of 1927, prohibits the manufacture, importation or sale after the 1st of July, 1927, of any matches other than safety matches, under a penalty not exceeding £50. " Safety match " is defined as a match igniting only on a specially-prepared surface.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The Legislative Council of St. Kitts-Nevis passed eighteen Ordinances during the year, of which the following were the most important :—

The Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, No. 3 of 1927.—This Ordinance was passed in order to comply with the Dangerous Drugs Convention signed at Geneva in 1926, and forbids the cultivation of the poppy plant or of Indian hemp, and prevents the dealing in opium and other dangerous drugs except by licence and under severe restrictions.

The Customs Duty Ordinance, No. 6 of 1927, provides for giving effect to the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement of 1925, and consolidates the law relating to customs duties.

The Petroleum and Explosives Amendment Ordinance, No. 18 of 1927, prohibits the storing of volatile petroleum in any place but a Government Petroleum Warehouse, and provides for rules to be made by the Governor in Council in regard to the quantity which can be removed at any one time, and the quantity which may be stored at any one place, and generally in regard to protection from fire.

Virgin Islands.

Nine Ordinances were made by the Governor for the Presidency of the Virgin Islands, the most important of which are :—

Compulsory Vaccination Ordinance, No. 3 of 1927, imposes compulsory vaccination on every child under the age of 12 unvaccinated at the time of the passing of the Ordinance, and for every child born after the passing of the Ordinance, subject to safeguards in regard to the health of the child and provided that no humanised lymph shall be used. Power is given to the Board of Health to impose compulsory vaccination on the adult members of the population in case of an outbreak of smallpox.

The Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, No. 5 of 1927.—This Ordinance was passed in order to comply with the Dangerous Drugs Convention signed at Geneva in 1926, and forbids the cultivation of the poppy plant or of Indian hemp, and prevents the dealing in opium and other dangerous drugs except by licence and under severe restriction.

Customs Duties Ordinance, No. 9 of 1927, provides for giving effect to the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement of 1925, and consolidates the law relating to customs duties.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Elementary.

The number of elementary schools in the Colony during the year under review was 104 distributed as follows :—

Presidency.	*Government.*	*State-aided.*	*Total.*
1. **Antigua**	18	2	20
2. **St. Kitts**	16	2	18
Nevis	10	—	10
Anguilla	5	—	5
3. **Dominica**	24	4	28
4. **Montserrat**	—	13	13
5. **Virgin Islands**	—	10	10
		Total ...	104

The numbers enrolled and in average attendance were :—

Whole Colony.	1926-27.	1927-28.
Number on roll	24,944	24,823
Average attendance	15,823	15,947

The total expenditure in the primary schools, exclusive of salaries of the departmental officers and of establishment charges, was £17,673 13s. 1d. against £17,332 2s. 4d. in the previous year.

Secondary.

The following is a list of the secondary schools in the Colony with their respective grants or cost (in the case of Government schools).

School.	*Grant-in-Aid.* £ s. d.	*Cost (Government Schools).* £
1. Antigua Grammar School	530 0 0	—
2. Antigua Girls' High School	200 0 0	—
3. Dominica Grammar School	—	687
4. St. Kitts-Nevis Grammar School	—	1,150
5. Excelsior School, Nevis	50 0 0	—
6. Thomas Oliver Robinson Memorial School, Antigua	50 0 0	—
7. Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, Antigua ...	240 0 0	—

A Scholarship of £150 a year for three years, tenable at a University to be approved by the Governor, is awarded on the results of the Cambridge School Certificate Examination. The Scholarship is open to both boys and girls under 19 years of age.

The primary schools in Antigua, Dominica, and St. Kitts-Nevis are all under direct Government control, and are managed by a Sub-Inspector of Schools in each Presidency.

In Montserrat and the Virgin Islands they are, with one exception, denominational, and are managed by the clergy of the various denominations, under the general control of the Education Boards. The schools are examined annually by the Inspector of Schools, and grants are awarded on the results of this examination. The pupil-teacher system is in vogue, the period of service being three years. Studentships are awarded to specially-selected candidates, at the conclusion of their pupil teachership, for two years to complete their training as assistant teachers. Those for girls are held at the Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, Antigua, and those for boys at the Rawle Training Institute, Codrington College, Barbados.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

There is a Central Lunatic Asylum at Skerrets, Antigua, and two Leper Homes in the Colony, one at Rat Island, Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles, St. Kitts.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Prisoners sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment are sent to the Common Prison of the Leeward Islands, in Antigua, and immediately before the expiration of their sentences are returned to the Presidencies from which they were committed.

Eighty-eight prisoners (44 males and 44 females) were admitted during the year. This is the lowest number of admissions on record. The highest number of prisoners in custody at any one time during the year was 63 (50 males and 13 females). The expenditure on the Central Prison was £2,028 11s. 10d., the receipts £178 6s. 11d.

The daily average number of prisoners was 55. The cost of the maintenance of each prisoner was £33 12s. 10d.

There were no deaths in the prison, but three male prisoners died in the hospital during the year.

The usual inquests were held, and a verdict of " natural causes " was delivered in each case.

Accommodation of the prison :—

Males :—

Separate cells	72 to hold	72
Association cells	7 to hold	35
Infirmary ward	1 to hold	9
Total for males		116

Females :—

Separate cells	20 to hold	20
Association cells	3 to hold	9
Infirmary ward	1 to hold	3
Total for females		32

Comparative table of Criminal Statistics for 1926 and 1927 :—

	1926.	1927.
Cases reported to the Police ...	6,906	6,650
Number of cases brought before the Magisterial Courts ...	15,419	16,173
Summary convictions	10,602	10,037
Indictments in the Superior Courts	85	81
Convictions in the Superior Courts	39	35

St. John's Training School.

The St. John's Training School was established under the provisions of the Leeward Islands Act No. 4 of 1891, for the reformation, education, and training of boys under 18 years of age.

On the 1st April, 1927, there were 19 boys at the school. During the year six boys were received. Thirteen boys were discharged during the year, leaving 12 in the school on the 31st March, 1928. The daily average was 18. The boys regularly attended the Anglican and Roman Catholic Church services, respectively, on Sunday mornings, and, in addition, the Anglican boys attended at the Cathedral, for religious instruction, on Sunday afternoons

The boys received the customary instruction from the Schoolmaster; the school hours being from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily, except on Saturdays and Sundays.

The staff consists of the Superintendent, the Schoolmaster and two junior officers.

The expenditure was £349 15s. 8d., the cost per head to Antigua being £19 8s. 8d. The health of the school was good. The boys were employed in agricultural and garden work in addition to the ordinary work of the school.

VII.—POLICE.

The actual strength of the Force on the 31st December, 1927, was 6 officers and 139 non-commissioned officers and men. The authorised establishment as provided for in the Colonial Estimates for the different Presidencies was seven Officers and 147 non-commissioned officers and men. Dominica Division is much under-policed for its area, population, and the duties calling for discharge.

Inspector P. Ruane retired on pension in August, 1927, and Inspector K. M. Leighton was promoted to Southern Nigeria on the 25th October, 1927. Sub-Inspector O. St. A. Duke was promoted Inspector in the room of Captain Ruane, Mr. J. R. A. Branch and Mr. A. M. Bell were appointed Sub-Inspectors. Sub-Inspector S. A. McKinstry returned from leave of absence in England on the 4th July, 1927.

Colonel-Commandant A. Mudge, C.B., C.M.G., Inspector-General, West India Local Forces, inspected the local Forces during the year, and reported favourably on the Leeward Islands Police Force.

The health of all ranks during the year was, on the whole, satisfactory. There were no deaths.

VIII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Colony, according to the census of 1921, was 122,242 showing a decrease of 4,951 when compared with the census of 1911.

Antigua.

In Antigua the estimated population on the 31st December, 1927, was 30,089. The number of marriages registered in the Presidency in 1927 was 142, as against 84 in 1926, while the births numbered 1,009, being 33.53 per thousand. The legitimate births were 235 and the illegitimate births 774, the percentages being 23.29 and 76.71, respectively. The deaths during the year numbered 705, which gives a death-rate of 23.43 per thousand. The deaths of children under one year, exclusive of 53 still-births, numbered 130 or 18.44 per cent. of the total.

St Kitts-Nevis.

The population of the Presidency at the end of the year was estimated to be 35,853.

An increase in St. Kitts-Nevis and Anguilla consequent on the excess of births over deaths is noted; but this increase, as far as St. Kitts is concerned, is altogether nullified by emigration.

In St. Kitts the excess of births over deaths, which amounted to 235, is counteracted by the effect of immigration and emigration, the latter exceeding the former by 274.

In Nevis immigration exceeded emigration by 4.

St. Kitts consequently shows a decrease of 39 in the total population, as compared with the estimated population at the close of the previous year.

The Nevis population shows an increase of 117, and the Anguilla population an increase of 60, as compared with the estimated population at the close of the previous year.

The total increase in the population of the Presidency is 138. An increase has not been noted for some years past. Emigration has usually nullified the natural increase resulting from excess of births over deaths.

The total number of births for the year was 1,263 (112 less than in the previous year) giving a birth-rate of 35.2 per thousand; and the total deaths were 855 (223 less than in the previous year) giving a death-rate of 23.5 per thousand, detailed as follows:—

Birth-rate.

St. Kitts, 44.5 per thousand, as against 47.2 in 1926.
Nevis 23.6 per thousand, as against 27.1 in 192 .
Anguilla 28.7 per thousand, as against 27.6 in 1926.

Death-rate.

St. Kitts 32.0 per thousand, as against 40.1 in 1926.
Nevis 14.1 per thousand, as against 17.7 in 1926.
Anguilla 15.8 per thousand, as against 17.4 in 1926.

The death-rate shows a considerable decline in the three islands of the Presidency, probably to be accounted for by the absence of any epidemic disease during the year.

Infantile Mortality, considered as the number of deaths of infants under one year of age to every thousand of living births, is shown below:—

	Per cent.
St. Kitts	18.04
Nevis	8.98
Anguilla	10.56

the total for the Presidency being 12.52 per cent. The number of still-births (102) was one more than the previous year.

Dominica.

The estimated population of Dominica at the end of 1927 was 41,051, as against 39,879 in 1926.

Births.—The births registered during the year numbered 1,341, as against 1,527 in 1926, giving a birth-rate of 32.66 per thousand of the population as against 38.29 per thousand in the previous year.

	Males.	Females.
The legitimate births were	322	267
The illegitimate births were	391	361

leaving an excess of illegitimate births over legitimate births of 163.

The percentage of legitimate and illegitimate births were 43.92 and 56.07 respectively.

In 1926 the illegitimate births exceeded the legitimate births by 325 (926 as against 601 or 60.64 and 39.36 per cent. respectively).

Marriages.—The number of marriages recorded in 1927 was 192, as against 440 in 1926, showing a decrease of 248. Of the 192 marriages recorded:—

> 180 were solemnized in the Roman Catholic Churches, seven were solemnized in the Wesleyan Church and five were solemnized in the Church of England.

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered during 1927 was 445 males and 500 females, making a total of 945 as against 973 in the previous year, a decrease of 28; and the death-rate per thousand of the estimated population was 23.00 as against 24.39 per thousand in 1926.

The excess of arrivals over departures was 776.

The majority of these were labourers who had left for Cuba in 1926 and who returned during the course of the year.

Montserrat.

The report on the vital statistics for Montserrat in 1927 shows a population of 11,916 on the 31st December, 1927; the births registered being 478, as against 417 in 1926, and showing a birth-rate of 40·11. The legitimate births were 128, the illegitimate 350, the percentage being 26·77 and 73·22 respectively. The deaths registered were 181, as against 167 in 1926, and the death-rate was 15·18 per thousand as against 14·23 per thousand in the previous year.

The marriages registered during the year under review were 50, showing a decrease of 2 over the figures for the year 1926.

The general health of the Colony during the year was satisfactory.

IX.—METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Antigua.

The average annual rainfall registered for 67 stations was 45·84 inches. The average annual rainfall for 54 years has been 43·92 inches, so that the rainfall for the year 1927 was 1·92 inches above the average. The rainfall registered at the stations mentioned above varied from 66·04 inches to 24·91 inches.

December proved to be a somewhat dry month, which has somewhat militated against late planting.

The greatest rainfall in one hour was 1·81 inches on 28th October; and the lowest temperature 65° on 24th January, while the highest, 91° F., was registered on seven days in September.

There were two thunderstorms of minor importance, viz.; 13th and 22nd April.

There were no atmospheric disturbances of any importance and the usual hurricane season was happily passed with no incidents to record.

St. Kitts.

The rainfall at La Guerite was 60·48 inches for the year 1927.

Dominica.

The rainfall at the Botanic Gardens was 80·95 inches for the year 1927.

X.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

British and foreign mails are conveyed to Presidences other than the Virgin Islands by steamers of Messrs. Furness, Withy and Company, Limited, from New York; the Canadian Government National Steamships, Limited, from Halifax; the Ocean Dominion Steamships Corporation from Montreal; and the Ocean Dominion Line from New York.

In the Virgin Islands mails from Great Britain, etc., are forwarded via St. Thomas and are conveyed between St. Thomas and Tortola by a launch belonging to the Government, and by private boats.

There is a fortnightly service by sailing-boat between St Kitts and Anguilla.

There are wireless stations in Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica and Montserrat, operated by the Pacific Cable Board.

Antigua, St. Kitts and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other, the other West Indian Colonies, and Europe and America, by the cables of the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company.

There is no communication by telegraph with the Virgin Islands, but messages can be sent to that Presidency via St. Thomas. St. Kitts is in heliographic communication with Nevis.

XI.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

His Excellency the Honourable Sir Eustace Fiennes, Bart., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands, was absent on leave from the 31st May to the 12th November, 1927, during which time His Honour Lieutenant-Colonel T. R. St. Johnston, C.M.G., Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, acted as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands.

The Honourable E. W. Baynes, C.B.E., Colonial Secretary, was absent on leave from the 15th April to the 6th September, 1927, during which time Mr. E. D'A. Tibbitts, Assistant Colonial Secretary, acted as Colonial Secretary.

His Honour E. C. Eliot, Administrator of Dominica, was on leave from the 29th January to the 23rd February and from the 11th November, 1927, to the 10th April, 1928, during which time His Honour Major H. W. Peebles, D.S.O., O.B.E., Commissioner of Montserrat, acted as Administrator of Dominica.

His Honour Major H. W. Peebles, D.S.O., O.B.E., Commissioner of Montserrat, was on leave of absence from the 18th May to the 14th August, 1927, during which time the Honourable A. C. K. Tibbits, Warden and Magistrate, District " H ", Nevis, acted as Commissioner of Montserrat.

His Honour H. H. Trusted, Second Puisne Judge, assumed the duties of Attorney-General of the Leeward Islands on the 25th February, 1927.

His Honour Mr. Bernard H. A. F. Berlyn, the newly-appointed Second Puisne Judge, arrived in the Colony and assumed his duties on the 3rd November, 1927.

During the year under report the Civil Service of the Leeward Islands has been re-organised, and the clerical staff has been graded as follows :—

Principals, £250—£10—£350.
Senior Clerks, £200—£10—£250.
Junior Clerks (men) £100—£10—£200.*
Junior Clerks (women) £100—£10—£160.*
Assistant Clerks (men) £65—£5—£90.
Assistant Clerks (women) £60—£5—£90.

The policy of the Government has been to abolish all fees and extraneous payments for extra services, and to pay an inclusive salary for all duties which the officer may reasonably be called upon to perform.

Graded officers are liable to be transferred at the discretion of the Governor to any office or department as follows : Principals, in any part of the Leeward Islands; other grades within the Presidency to which they are attached.

The lower ranks of the Civil Service have also been graded as follows :—

Chief Petty Officers, £90—£5—£120, with £10 allowance if no quarters are provided.
Petty Officer, Class I, £65—£3—£80.
Petty Officer, Class II, £45—£3—£60.
Petty Officer, Class IIA, £45 fixed.
Petty Officer, Class III, £30—£2—£42.
Petty Officer, Class IV, £24 fixed.
Petty Officer, Class V, £18 fixed.

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* Efficiency bar at £150.

Petty Officers of Class II and upwards hold pensionable offices, and are governed by the provisions of the Pensions Acts of the Colony.

HONOURS.

The following Honours were conferred by His Majesty during the year :—

The Honourable S. W. Howes, Unofficial Member of the Executive Council of Montserrat, to be an Officer (Civil Division) of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Mr. O. Nugent, to be a Member (Civil Division) of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

ANTIGUA.

Financial.

The revenue for the year 1927-28 amounted to £93,435 13s. 0¼d. and the expenditure to £83,149 6s. 7d. The revenue therefore exceeded the expenditure by £10,286 6s. 5¼d.

This large excess of revenue over expenditure not only cancelled the deficit of £6,137 brought forward at the 1st of April, but allowed a surplus of £4,149 6s. 5½d. to be carried forward at the 1st April, 1928.

The securities held by the Crown Agents at the end of the year as a reserve fund was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Face Value	11,738	10	3
Cost	11,457	12	3
Market Value at 31.3.28	12,255	6	8

Revenue.

The revenue, estimated at £84,202, reached £93,435 13s. 0½d., thus showing an increase of £9,233 13s. 0½d. Of this increase the sums of £736 18s. 5d. and £352 5s. 2d. were reimbursements in aid from deposits on account of sales of Government lands and Rental Assessment Fund.

	£
The total revenue for 1927-28 was	93,436
The total revenue for 1926-27 was	81,283
The increase being	12,153

The various heads of revenue show, as compared with the previous year, the following increases and decreases :—

Head.	*Increases.*	*Decreases.*
	£	£
1. Customs	14,368	—
2. Port and Harbour Dues	—	825
3. Licences, etc.	—	992
3a. Municipal Rates	107	—
4. Fees of Court, etc.	—	1,402
5. Post Office, etc.	1,055	—
6. Rents	17	—
7. Interest	138	—
8. Miscellanous	—	307
9. Land sales	—	6
	£15,685	£3,532

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £83,149 6s. 7d., being £5,479 6s. 7d. more than estimated.

A considerable number of the Heads showed decreases, the largest being :—

Head.	£
1. Charges o/a. Public Debt	433
4. Island Secretary	213
10. Police	656
11. Prisons, etc.	215
13. Hospitals, etc.	722
16a. Municipal	6,123
28. Barbuda	2,996

The Heads showing the principal increases were :—

Head.	£
2. Pensions	845
5. Federal Contributions	819
22. Miscellaneous	775
24. Public Works Department	4,987
25. Public Works Recurrent	4,162
26. Public Works Extraordinary	2,004

The increases under Heads 24 and 25 were chiefly due to the transfer of Head 16a, Municipal, to those Heads. The increase under Head 26 was caused by the erection of a new ward at the Central Lunatic Asylum and the improvement of Fort James.

Agricultural.

SUGAR.

From an agricultural standpoint the year 1927 was a most favourable one. The output of sugar was the largest since the central factories have been erected. This amounted to 23,195 tons. Of this the Antigua Sugar Factory, Limited, produced 19,794 tons at 9.2 tons of cane per ton of sugar, and the South Western Estates Company, Limited (Bendals Factory), 3,401 tons.

The price of sugar, too, was more satisfactory than the previous year, averaging £16 6s. 3d. per ton as compared with £13 14s. 11d. in 1926.

The following extract from the annual report of the Antigua Sugar Factory for the year 1927 is explanatory :—

> "The island had most favourable weather for the canes all through from the time of planting until the close of reaping. The rainfall for 1926 was 48 inches, well distributed, and at the beginning of the present year it was estimated that the Factory would have an output of about 16,000 tons sugar, which was higher than any previous record. But another 30 inches fell during the crop season, which did not hurt the canes, and it added nearly 25 per cent. to the estimated output, bringing the total up to 19,794 tons, or just double the average of the last seven years.
>
> The sugar realised £16 6s. 3d. per ton f.o.b., which shows a satisfactory recovery from the low level of the last year."

Very little muscovado was produced during 1927, only one factory operating, the sugar from which was consumed locally. The quantities of molasses and fancy syrup exported for the period in question were :—

	Gallons.
Vacuum Pan Molasses	715,377
Muscovado and Fancy Syrup	36,451

The railway line connecting the two vacuum pan factories—Antigua Sugar Factory and Bendals Sugar Factory (South Western Estates Company, Limited)—referred to in the report for 1925 was again not utilised during the current year.

COTTON.

The acreage under cotton was practically the same as in the previous year. Large quantities of paris green had to be used owing to frequent attacks of the cotton worm (*Alabama Sp.*). As usual, owing to the presence of the pink boll worm, no second picking was possible.

The total crop produced was 116,400 lb., of which 97,000 lb., valued at £9,276, was exported.

This yielded 310,400 lb. of cotton seed, of which 60,480 lb. were exported to Montserrat to be converted into refined cotton seed oil —the balance was converted into cotton seed meal for local use.

As mentioned in the previous year's report, the same arrangements were made with the cotton factory to purchase this seed cotton from peasants at a flat rate—this purchase being financed by the Antigua Cotton Growers' Association, which subsequently distributed a second and final payment to peasants after marketing it to the best advantage; this second payment amounted to over £200.

ONIONS.

As mentioned in last year's report, owing to the comparative smallness of the crop the onion-drying house—maintained by the Onion Growers' Association—was not used, growers shipping independently. The quantity shipped amounted to 66,500 lb. as compared with 46,750 lb. last year; of this amount the majority went to the United States of America.

LIME INDUSTRY.

The quantity of concentrated lime juice shipped during the year amounted to 5,250 gallons, as compared with 2,650 for the previous year. Eighty-one barrels of green limes were exported to Bermuda. In addition, 144 gallons of distilled lime oil, valued at £1,620, were shipped to the United States of America. There has been a general increase in the amounts exported of these products and the industry is gradually being extended. Considerable orders have been placed with the Agricultural Department for seedling plants.

COCONUTS.

There is little or no improvement to report in this industry from the estates point of view; the older trees are slowly recovering from the effects of severe dry weather in the past. 3,135 nuts were exported during the year in question, as compared with 4,200 in the previous year, but it must be noted that most of the locally-grown nuts went into local consumption, while a fairly large quantity are also imported into the Presidency for this purpose from Dominica.

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. T. B. Macaulay, President of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, 3,000 nuts were germinated by the Agricultural Department and distributed free to peasants in the various districts and villages of the island, and it is proposed to distribute a further 2,000 in the coming year. In this way it is intended to furnish deserving peasants with a small supply of young plants so that they may benefit by this free distribution when the trees come into bearing.

OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

In a similar way, mango plants of stringless varieties and avocado pears have been distributed to the peasants free of cost with a view to the increasing of the local supply of better-class fruit.

The remaining agricultural products call for no special remarks. The area under pine-apples is slowly increasing, as also bananas.

The minor products exported include :—

	£
Hides and skins to the value of	314
Tamarinds (115,800 lb.)	309
Hardwood to the value of	40
Seedwork to the value of	15

This latter item is a typical example how changes in fashion may seriously affect an industry, which in this instance was confined to the peasantry.

It is of interest in this connection to compare the exports of this type of industry for the past three years, which were as follows :—

	£
1925 valued at	1,335
1926 valued at	391
1927 valued at	15

Exhibitions.

During the financial year 1927-28 a very successful exhibition was held on the grounds and premises of the St. John's Boys' School. The cost was comparatively small to the Government. A vote of £50 was provided and was supplemented by generous local donations. While somewhat smaller in number than in the previous year, the exhibits were of a higher standard and the general attendance was better. The entries for peasant cottage gardens and also cultivations were notably increased. This feature had been introduced by His Excellency the Governor, the Honourable Sir Eustace Fiennes, Bart., in the two previous exhibitions of February, 1926, and January, 1927. This increase in the number of competitors indicates that the peasants are taking an increased interest and pride in their cottage gardens and cultivations, and is a very satisfactory result. The type of vegetables and fruit marketed now is showing considerable improvement.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

The actual revenue for the year 1927-28 was £94,160 12s. 5½d. The actual expenditure for the same year was £93,113 9s. 1½d.

Island of St. Kitts.

The installation of an electric light system for the town of Basseterre has been completed. The plant, consisting of three powerful and separate units, is housed in a large new concrete station in a central position occupying a portion of the market site. The completion of this long-desired necessity has helped materially towards improving living conditions in the slums as lights are being widely distributed. The opening up of certain congested areas of the town, and the construction of new streets through them, form part of the programme of work to be undertaken.

Many improvements have been made at the hospital, including the enlargement of the operating theatre and the establishment of special wards for tuberculosis cases.

At the Government Grammar School a large new Science Laboratory has been built, and a number of Scholarships have been given by private persons to enable certain deserving boys to take up agricultural science. At all Government institutions and schools, and at many private houses, water-flush sewage systems have been established.

A Municipal motor scavenging service has been started and has worked in a highly satisfactory manner throughout the year.

At Sandy Point, the second largest town, a public recreation ground has been provided for the people.

With the purchase of up-to-date road making machinery an improvement in the road system throughout the island has been initiated, and all macadamized motor-roads will in future be coated with a special preservative preparation.

Nevis.

In the island of Nevis water supplies have been brought down from mountain sources to Newcastle, Jessups, and Cotton Ground villages.

An infirmary for the aged poor has been established in the neighbourhood of the hospital, and electric light is now being installed in both institutions.

A War Memorial has been erected in the Public Garden to the north of the Court House; it takes the form of a stone obelisk, raised on a flight of steps, with an ornamental bronze tablet upon it.

Anquilla.

A telephone system has been installed. New roads have been constructed and the hospital has been provided with electric light.

At the close of the year 1927-28 the public debt stood at £26,731 11s. 5d.

The surplus on the 31st March amounted to £4,966 16s. 10d.

The value of imports for the calendar year 1927 totalled £329,418.

The value of exports totalled £353,405.

The total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in 1927 exceeded the previous year by 370,950 tons.

An Ordinance relating to Customs Duties was passed during the year to give effect to the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement, 1925, and removes machinery, fuel oil and railway rolling stock from the free schedule.

The rainfall for the year 1927 was 60.48 inches, which was well distributed, and the cane crop reaped was the largest on record for many years. The total acreage planted in canes was 6,425 acres, and the canes reaped amounted to 165,000 tons. The total quantity of sugar made at the Basseterre Sugar Factory was 18,067 tons, which is 1,777 tons more than that made in 1926.

In Nevis the sugar industry is of minor importance. The greater part of the crop is grown by peasants, who make a part of it into muscovado sugar for local consumption and ship the balance by boat to the St. Kitts factory.

The Cotton Industry.—The total acreage planted in cotton during the year 1927 was about 3,000 acres. In St. Kitts the yield of lint per acre was somewhat below that of the previous year on account of serious damage done to the crop by the pink boll worm.

In Nevis the total acreage planted in cotton was about 1,500 acres, and the yield was better than it had been for some years past. The total quantity of cotton produced was 160,000 lb. of lint; being an average of about 106 lb. per acre.

Owing to the present unsatisfactory condition of the Sea Island cotton market the acreage under cotton is likely to be considerably reduced during the coming season.

Coconuts.—The coconut plantations in Nevis are recovering from the effects of the 1924 hurricane. The total number of nuts produced on the Pinney's plantation was 263,000, which is much in excess of the number produced last year. The other plantations are also doing fairly well, and the acreage under coconuts was slightly increased during the year.

Live Stock.—The raising of live stock is becoming an industry of some importance to the island of Nevis, and large areas are now devoted to the raising of cattle and mules.

Fruits and Vegetables.—Efforts are being made to interest the peasants in Nevis in the growing of fruits and vegetables for the Canadian market.

The health of the Presidency has not been disturbed by any epidemic during the year.

The birth-rate exceeded the death-rate 11.0 per thousand.

The population decreased by 270 owing to emigration.

The infantile mortality for the year was 125.2 per thousand for the whole Presidency. The Baby Saving League—mainly supported by Government Grant-in-Aid—has continued its functions throughout the year.

The campaign against venereal disease and yaws has continued its work. In addition to the cases treated in hospitals, 6,591 injections were given.

The treatment of inmates of the Leper Home with chaulmoogra oil has been maintained and five more inmates have been discharged on parole during the year. The treatment of "early cases" not segregated in the Home has made satisfactory progress.

DOMINICA.

The financial year 1927-28 opened with a deficit of £10,426. The revenue was estimated at £56,408, but the actual revenue received was £60,314, the estimate having been exceeded by £3,906, and the revenue for 1926-27 having been exceeded by £2,481.

A sum of £1,000, which was allocated by the Imperial Government in anticipation of the execution of certain public works, was not brought to account as revenue as the works in question were not completed before the end of the financial year, and the amount was not required, the ordinary revenue being sufficient to meet such expenditure as was incurred.

The principal increases in revenue were Imports £1,200, Excise Duty £1,900 and Income Tax £400. The increase in the revenue reflected a general revival in trade, which put more money in circulation and increased the purchasing power of the population.

Imperial assistance during the year amounted to £8,500, £6,000 being for Grants (Peasants' Information Bureau, etc.) and Loans (£2,500). This was in addition to unexpended balances brought forward from previous years, the total expenditure from the Imperial Grant being £20,226, £6,990 being for Grants and £13,236 being for Agricultural Loans. Expenditure under Grants includes the expenses of the sanitary campaign which is being carried out under the auspices of the Imperial Government, the actual expenditure under this Head during the year being £3,845.

The expenditure for the year was estimated at £58,617, and the actual expenditure was £60,489, being £1,872 in excess of the estimate, and £4,338 in excess of the expenditure for the year 1926-27.

The principal increases in expenditure were: Investments Depreciation Account £1,154 (due to sale of certain investments), Transport £424, Representation of Presidency at Canadian National Exhibition £268, Carnival Disturbances £468, Storm Damage £989 and Reconstruction of Goodwill Bridge £654.

In spite of the large increase in the revenue, the financial year closed with a small deficit of £175 in consequence of the excesses in expenditure mentioned above.

The £1,000 referred to already remains in the hands of the Crown Agents to the credit of the Presidency and is available to defray a proportion of any further deficit.

The following is a tabular statement of the value of the imports and exports during the last five years :—

IMPORTS.

1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
£150,955.	£143,579.	£146,204.	£164,884.	£168,630.

EXPORTS.

1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
£122,668.	£171,257.	£125,596.	£145,871.	£155,806

It will be seen from the above table that there has been a steady increase in the trade of the Presidency during the last few years. It may be mentioned that, as regards the figures for exports in 1924, there was a considerable carry over of the 1923 crop in that year which caused the total exports for the year to appear somewhat abnormal.

The Presidency at present has no reserve fund, it having been realized to meet deficits.

The financial year 1927-28 closed with a total deficit of £10,601, which represents accumulated annual deficits during previous years together with the deficit of £175 in 1927-28.

Agricultural.

THE LIME INDUSTRY.

The export figures for limes and lime products during the year 1927 show a drop of 4,000 barrels over those of the previous year. This is mainly accounted for by the unfavourable weather experienced throughout the year, but more especially during the flowering periods, and also to an outbreak of root disease. The value of the lime products grown show an increase owing to the high prices realised. There is an exceptionally heavy flowering of the trees at the present time.

Ripe limes realised up to 10s. per barrel, and green limes up to 31s. per barrel. Lime oils also remained high, expressed realising up to 34s. per lb., and distilled 24s. per lb.

The crop shipped since 1919, calculated in barrels of fruit and expressed in round numbers, is recorded below :—

1919	402,000	Prior to appearance of withertip.
1920	369,000	
1921	516,000	
1922	400,000	
1923	228,000	
1924	424,000	(Owing to " carry over " from previous year.)
1925	230,000	
1926	214,000	
1927	210,000	

The following table calculated on the usual basis shows the disposal of the crop under various heads :—

Product.	*Barrels of fruit.*	*Approximate percentage of total crop.*
Concentrated juice	160,456	76·3
Raw juice	23,179	11·0
Fresh limes	21,577	10·2
Pickled limes	263	·12
Lime-juice cordial	4,647	2·2

The exports of products of the lime industry during 1927 is recorded below :—

Product.	*Quantity.*	*Value.* £
Concentrated lime juice	106,971 gallons	22,269
Raw lime juice ...	173,848 gallons	7,244
Lime-juice cordial ...	845 gallons	127
Fresh limes	21,577 barrels	15,931
Pickled limes	263 barrels	553
Essential oil (distilled)	31,346 lb.	36,049
Otto of limes (hand-pressed or ecuelled) ...	7,828 lb.	13,308
		£95,481

FRUIT INDUSTRY.

With the improved steamship facilities between the West Indies and Canada the future of the fruit trade is much brighter. The excellent reports received on fruit sent to the Imperial Fruit Show, Manchester, has been the means of creating a good deal of activity amongst the planting community, and the Agricultural Department has been inundated with orders for budded plants of selected varieties.

BANANAS.

It is unfortunate that the Swift Banana Company which has undertaken to establish buying stations at suitable places throughout the Presidency and to provide a fortnightly steamship service decided in February to suspend operations in the West Indies.

The local Company had been put to some expense in acquiring land, but fortunately had not commenced planting operations. Considerable planting had, however, been done by the peasantry and the news of the Company suspending operations created a feeling of depression.

COCONUTS.

Interest in the cultivation of this crop is steadily increasing and there has been a steady demand for planting material throughout the year.

The export of copra over that of the previous year has again increased by 31,356 lb., and there is every indication that there will be a substantial increase during the present year.

COCOA.

Better prices obtained for cocoa have induced growers to pay more attention to their cultivation. There has been a considerable increase in the export figures.

COFFEE.

More interest is being taken in this crop, and the number of plants distributed by the Department during the year is considerable. The Arabian type is being taken up on plantations, the Robusta type being practically confined to peasant cultivation.

NUTMEG.

The demand for plants still persists and there are now a good many acres planted in the Island.

General.

A large number of planters have been assisted during the year by the Loan Board with the funds placed at its disposal by the Imperial Government.

This release of funds by the Board and the steady high price for essential oils tended to improve the general economic condition of the Island and accounted for an increase in revenue over that estimated for the year 1927-28 of about £3,900.

As a result of the grant from His Majesty's Government for sanitary purposes, the Health Department was inaugurated early in the year. Dr. A. G. Carment was appointed by the Imperial Government as Medical Officer of Health and Mr. James Jack as his Sanitary Inspector. Many improvements have been effected in the general health and sanitary conditions of the Island, and work under this head is steadily progressing.

Mr. F. C. Clarkson, Colonial Engineer of Dominica, having been appointed Commissioner of the Virgin Islands, Captain E. C. Patrickson was sent out to succeed him. Captain Patrickson assumed duty on the 19th August, 1927.

A severe storm occurred on the 22nd of May, 1927, and serious damage was done by the flooding of the Roseau River to the retaining and protection walls, and to bridges. Among the most important of these was the Goodwill Bridge. The approaches to both the Import and Bell jetties were carried away by the heavy seas during this disturbance.

A coastal service was started in October, 1927. This was made possible by a grant from the Imperial Government for that purpose as an outcome of one of the recommendations of Sir Francis Watts. The service is carried out by the auxiliary schooner "Mermaid C", the owners of which receive a subsidy from the Government.

An Infant Welfare Committee was formed in the Northern District under the chairmanship of the Warden, who with the assistance of the Medical Officers is doing good work.

A useful addition was made to the Dominica Infirmary in the form of a new ward as a result of a generous donation from Mr. T. B. Macaulay of Canada. This is called the Macaulay Ward.

During the course of the year Dominica was visited by many officers of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, including Professor H. A. Ballou, B.Sc., Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies; Mr. G. Evans, M.A., C.I.E., Principal of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture; and Professor H. R. Briton-Jones, D.F.C., T.H.D., (London) D.I.C., A.R.C.S., Mycologist and Bacteriologist.

The planting community of the Island greatly appreciated the visits of these gentlemen.

In November, 1927, His Honour E. C. Eliot, Esquire, Administrator, proceeded to England on leave. During his absence the Government was administered by His Honour Major H. W. Peebles, D.S.O., O.B.E., Commissioner of Montserrat.

MONTSERRAT.

General.

His Excellency the Governor visited the Presidency on the 9th March, 1928, arriving on H.M.S. "Colombo", and opened the annual Agricultural and Horticultural Exhibition which was largely attended and was a great success.

The Montserrat Grammar School was opened on the 23rd January, 1928. The school opened with 26 pupils. The education is secondary and the Institution, which is under Government control, meets a long-felt need.

The administrative policy during this year has been one of economy compatible with efficiency, advantage being taken of a surplus of revenue to extend and consolidate works of public welfare on a small scale.

Finance.

	£	£
The revenue for the financial year 1927-28 was	22,426	
and the expenditure	19,986	
showing a surplus of	2,440	
which, added to the surplus brought forward from previous years, of ...		2,759
totals a gross surplus of		5,199

Figures for the preceding five years are :—

	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1922-23	17,101	17	11	24,266	16	2
1923-24	23,683	18	9	19,653	7	8
1924-25	17,168	6	7½	24,052	17	1
1925-26	21,370	16	2½	21,039	11	10
1926-27	22,687	13	4½	21,140	3	11

The excess of assets on the 31st March, 1928, was £5,199 3s. 8½d. The public debt stands at £14,100, made up of :—

	£
Water Works Loan	1,100
Public Works Loan	10,000
Wireless Station Loan	3,000
	£14,100

Sinking funds for the various loans are : —

	£	s.	d.
Water Works Loan, 1883	1,150	15	4
Public Works Loan, 1893	6,700	6	11
Wireless Station Loan, 1924-25	472	5	11
	£8,323	8	2

Production.

The year 1927 proved a most successful one from an agricultural point of view. The main crop of the Island gave record yields, surpassing all previous yields in the Island's history. The main industry, cotton, was again the Island's mainstay, 666,000 lb. of lint being shipped. This represents the satisfactory yield of 222lb. of lint per acre. The onion crop also proved a record one—447,602 lb. of onions were shipped. Other crops of importance which showed increased production during the year were limes, sugar, papain. Bay oil again suffered from poor market conditions. To sum up, the total exports of the Island showed a substantial increase from £50,576 in 1926 to £68,753 in 1927.

The principal exports of this Island, and chief and minor industries for the past five years are as follows :—

	1923.		1924.		1925.		1926.		1927.	
	Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
		£		£		£		£		£
Cotton Lint (lb.)	483,295	48,235	477,775	47,183	342,863	38,913	377,294	39,097	665,113	50,527
Onions ... (lb.)	132,139	767	110,286	1,118	158,739	1,436	304,562	2,435	447,602	6,663
Lime products (gals.)	57,560	4,980	41,216	3,118	7,057	565	34,594	2,086	34,047	1,720
Papain ... (lb.)	538	444	599	424	541	379	1,696	1,106	1,243	877
Sugar ... (tons)	140	2,521	36	513	1½	15	47,960	411	61½	1,222
Bay Oil ... (gals.)	285	1,455	141	705	123	615	104	325	67	53

The Reforestation of Lands Ordinance, 1927 (Montserrat, No. 10 of 1927), was passed to preserve the existing growths of vegetation on the slopes of the high hills and provide for re-forestation of areas which may be denuded by any cause. It prohibits the cutting of timber and burning of charcoal within any " Forest Reserve " without licence and constitutes a " Forestry Board " for the purposes of its enactments, one of which empowers the Board to prescribe an " Arbor Day " or " Days " for the planting of trees.

Fish of excellent quality frequent the waters of the Island but the industry could be increased as the demand exceeds the supply.

Trade and Economics.

The imports for 1927 amounted to £63,402, and the exports to £68,753, showing an increase of exports over imports of £5,351.

The imports showed a decrease of £1,547 as compared with 1926, which was due to smaller importations of flour consequent on the breadfruits and vegetables being re-established since their destruction by the 1924 hurricane. The exports showed an increase of £6,040 over those of 1926, due to the large export of Sea Island cotton lint (665,135 lb.), the largest on record.

The comparative statements of imports and exports for the last three years show the trend of trade in the principal imports and exports.

Communications.

Regular steamship services are fortnightly, by the Canadian National Steamship Line, to the neighbouring English islands and Canada. Sailing sloops trade to the nearest sister Presidencies.

A wireless station operated by the Pacific Cable Board connects with all the other West Indian Islands, with Barbados as the distributing centre.

The telephone installation is a double wire, metallic circuit system.

The roads are kept in good repair. They are liable to heavy washes in the rainy season, which causes the cost of their repair to be heavy. The configuration of the land is not suitable to heavy transport service other than on the main roads, and produce from the far districts is conveyed to town by boat. No railways exist.

The inland postal service was re-organized in 1926 when three sub-post offices were established in the country districts.

Justice, Police, Prisons.

A Magistrate's Court is held twice a week and the Supreme Court of the Colony decides appeals from this and settles cases of serious crime three times a year. A Court of Summary Jurisdiction is appointed periodically. No unusual cases of crime occurred and general peace and good order were maintained.

A Division of the Leeward Islands Police is stationed in the Presidency, at present under a Sergeant Major. The health of the men is good and the discipline is excellent.

Short-term prisoners are kept in the local jail; sentences of over six months are served at the Central Prison at Antigua.

The health of the prisoners was good during the year, and no serious breaches of the Prison Regulations were committed.

Public Works.

The public buildings have all been kept in general repair. The water works required constant attention owing to landslides in the mountains where the pipe lines run to their sources. Supplies were extended to three important villages.

A building was leased and fitted up by the Department for use as a Grammar School.

Public Health.

General health conditions were good during 1927. A feature was the small number of typhoid fever cases. The death-rate was 15.18 per 1,000 from all causes, and this is to be considered as a low figure considering local conditions.

The town of Plymouth was kept in a clean condition and no cases of typhoid occurred in the town limits.

Education.

All education has hitherto been elementary; the schools being undertaken by the various Denominations with Grants-in-Aid from Government. The Grammar School now provides secondary education at very reasonable charges.

Lands and Survey.

The soil of the Island is suited to Sea Island cotton production, giving excellent yields with average manuring.

There are no Crown lands, the various hills and peaks being attached to the estates lying along their slopes. Uncultivated land is not sufficiently extensive and accessible to merit further development.

Labour.

Labour is sometimes scarce, the peasants being attracted to other places where wages are higher, although living conditions are easier for the labourer in the Island.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The prosperity of the Presidency was well maintained despite the unsatisfactory state of the Agricultural Department and the decrease in the number of horses and cattle exported.

Captain Hassel paid two visits to Tortola during the year but his purchases were small; he reports the demand for horses and mules is decreasing each year, due to the increased use of motor vehicles in all the islands.

It is expected that the Customs duties will reach the estimated figure. The new Customs Tariff has not been in operation long enough to show any marked change. Sale of stamps shows a considerable increase over the estimated figure. The value of exports and imports during the calendar year amounted to £12 480 and £28,650 respectively, and the total tonnage of shipping was 17,182.

Public Works Extraordinary.

No new work of any magnitude was undertaken during the year. The exceptionally heavy rains caused considerable damage to roads, bridges, etc., throughout the Presidency but repairs were carried out at small cost.

Medical.

The general health of the Presidency during the year was good Very little sickness was reported. The Tortola Cottage Hospital continues to be well patronised and is growing in popularity. A Dispensary opened in Anegada at the instigation of His Excellency the Governor is much appreciated by the inhabitants of that remote island.

Agricultural.

The weather during 1927 was exceptionally good. The rainfall measured 63.63 inches and was well distributed. Fruit and vegetables were plentiful, consequently prices were low. Owing to the poor demand for Sea Island cotton very little was planted by the peasants. The Botanic Station planted some three acres to keep this industry alive.

A party of Spaniards from Porto Rico planted 16 acres of cigar tobacco with excellent results. It is their intention to plant next season 100 acres or more if they are able to procure suitable land. Experiments are being carried out at the Station with pipe tobacco of the bright Virginia type for export to the United Kingdom.

Educational.

The number of children on the school registers in 1927 was 1,274 and the average attendance 777, which is a slight increase on the previous year.

The Grant for Education in 1927 was £621, an increase of £367 on the year 1917, ten years ago.

There were 20 prosecutions, with fines totalling £2 11s. 0d., for non-attendance under the Education Act, 1925.

School gardens were maintained at all schools but one. The annual examination of the schools was held in May when the Federal Inspector of Schools visited the Presidency.

The annual school sports in which all the schools join take place each year on Empire Day.

Owing to a mild outbreak of whooping-cough in the west end of Tortola, the school in that district was closed by order of the Medical Officer for a short period during the year.

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LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1928-29.

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LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1928-29.

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY.

The Leeward Islands, so called in contrast to the Windward Islands, which are more exposed to the North-East Trade, the prevailing wind in the West Indies, form the most northerly group of the Lesser Antilles.

The Leeward Islands, comprising the Presidencies of Antigua (with its dependencies Barbuda and Redonda), Montserrat, St. Christopher (commonly known as St. Kitts) and Nevis (including Anguilla), Dominica, and the Virgin Islands, were constituted a single Federal Colony by an Act passed in the Imperial Parliament in the Session of 1871, 34 & 35 Vict., cap 107. The total area of the Colony is 704 square miles.

The island of Sombrero was added to the Colony by Order in Council under the Colonial Boundaries Act on the 10th August, 1904.

The islands were discovered by Columbus on his second voyage in 1493, and became British during the 17th century. They were all colonized from St. Kitts, as centre, all included in the Carlisle grant, and possessed a common Legislature as far back as the reign of William and Mary.

English is spoken in all the islands, but some of the natives speak it in a very corrupt form. In Dominica, patois is spoken by the natives.

The usual currency is British silver and copper. Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) Ltd. and the Royal Bank of Canada have branches in Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica, and the latter Bank has a branch in Montserrat. In Nevis and the Virgin Islands there are no banks.

Antigua.

Antigua is situated in W. long. 61° 45′ and N. lat. 17° 6′. It is about 54 miles in circumference, and its area is 108 square miles.

The island was discovered by Columbus in 1493, who named it after a church in Seville, called Santa Maria La Antigua. It was first inhabited by a few English from St. Kitts in 1632. In 1663 Charles II made a formal grant of the island to Lord Willoughby, who sent out a large number of colonists. After an interval of French occupation, it was declared a British possession by the Treaty of Breda, 1666. There are no rivers and few springs in the island, and consequently it is exposed to frequent droughts. There are no forests.

I.—GENERAL.

Leeward Islands.

By "The Leeward Islands Act, 1871" one Executive and one Legislative Council, under one Governor, were constituted for the six (now five) Presidencies. The Legislative Council now consists of ten official and ten elected members. Three elected members are chosen by the unofficial members of the Legislative Council of Antigua, two by those of the Legislative Council of Dominica, three by those of the Legislative Council of St. Kitts and Nevis, and one by those of the Legislative Council of Montserrat. They must be and continue members of their respective island councils. As there is no Legislative Council in the Virgin Islands, one member is appointed by the Governor to represent that Presidency under "The Leeward Islands Act, 1871, Amendment Act, 1924." The official members are the Governor, the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, the Federal Treasurer, the Administrators of St. Kitts-Nevis and Dominica, and the Commissioners of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands and such other person holding office under the Government of the Colony of the Leeward Islands as the Governor with the approval of the Secretary of State may appoint. (Vide L.I. Act No. 6 of 1923).

The Legislative Council has concurrent legislative powers with the local legislatures on certain subjects specified in the Act such as matters of property, mercantile and criminal law, the law relating to status, the maintenance of a general police force and a common convict establishment, quarantine, postal and telegraph affairs, currency, audit, weights and measures, education and the care of lunatics, all matters relating to immigration, copyright and patents, and its own constitution and procedure. Any island legislature is, in addition, competent to declare other matters to be within the competency of the general legislature. Any island enactment on such subjects is void if repugnant to enactment of the general legislature, or may at any time be repealed or altered by an enactment of the general legislature.

The Council meets at least once a year, at a place notified by proclamation, and no Council lasts more than three years. The session usually lasts for about one week.

The expenses of the federal establishments are voted by the Council, and apportioned among the Presidencies.

The Council has power to alter its constitution by an ordinary Act, to be reserved for the King's pleasure, and the King has power, by Order in Council, at any time to include any other West Indian

Island in the federation, upon joint addresses from the Legislative Body of such island, and from the Council, on such terms and conditions in each case as are in the addresses expressed. This power has not actually been exercised and the inclusion in the Colony of Sombrero, which had no legislative body, was effected as above mentioned under a different Act.

Antigua.

On the 22nd March, 1898, the Legislative Council of Antigua which was previously partly elected and partly nominated by the Governor, passed an Act abrogating itself and substituting the Crown Colony system. The new Council consists of sixteen members, eight official and eight non-official, all nominated by the Governor under Royal Letters Patent. The Governor presides and he has an original and a casting vote. The duration of the Council is three years.

II.—FINANCE.

The following table shows the Revenue and Expenditure of the various Presidencies of the Colony for the five financial years, 1924–25 to 1928–29 :—

Revenue.

	1924–25.	1925–26.	1926–27.	1927–28.	1928–29
	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	78,983	81,671	81,283	93,436	97,903
St. Kitts Nevis	88,095	90,405	88,103	94,161	101,567
Dominica	48,154	61,623	87,833	68,815	92,445
Montserrat...	17,168	21,371	22,688	22,426	30,330
Virgin Islands	7,872	12,532	9,486	9,734	9,120
	240,272	267,602	289,393	288,572	331,365

Expenditure.

	1924–25.	1925–26.	1926–27.	1927–28.	1928–29.
	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	85,244	79,004	80,736	83,149	101,331
St. Kitts Nevis	95,510	88,888	86,418	93,113	104,692
Dominica	55,483	62,511	62,395	80,715	80,517
Montserrat...	24,053	21,039	21,140	19,986	32,278
Virgin Islands	9,110	17,419	8,348	7,240	9,487
	269,400	268,861	259,037	284,203	328,305

ANTIGUA.

At the 1st April, 1928, a surplus of £4,149 was brought forward.

The following table shows in comparative form the Revenue collected during the years 1927–28 and 1928–29:—

		1927–28.	1928–29.
1.	Customs—		
	Import Duties ...	56,929	55,646
	Export Duties ...	6,214	5,617
2.	Tonnage and Harbour Dues	2,265	1,818
3.	Licences, Taxes, etc. ...	8,919	10,243
3a.	Municipal Rates and Taxes	3,624	3,759
4.	Fees of Court or Office, etc.	7,701	8,689
5.	Post Office and Telephone	6,947	8,022
6.	Rents	312	421
7.	Interest	271	450
8.	Miscellaneous	253	154
9.	Sales of Lands ...	—	240
		£93,435	£95,059

Besides the above local revenue the following grants and gifts were received:—

	£
Imperial Grant in aid to Hurricane Damage ...	1,000
Gift from Mr. R. Bryson for erection of a pier at Fort James.	500
Grant from Mr. T. B. Macaulay for erection of a ward at the Central Lunatic Asylum, etc., etc.	1,346
The receipts for the year thus totalled	97,903

The causes of the increases over 1927–28 were under:—

Head 3.—Licences, etc., £1,324—Larger collection from Income Tax.

Head 4.—Fees of Court, etc., £988—Hospital Fees £250, Steam Transport £130, Hurricane Insurance £666.

Head 5.—Post Office, £1,075—Larger sales of postage and revenue stamps due to new varieties being placed on sale.

The decreases were under:—

Head 1.—Customs, £1,880—Less trade both in the Imports and Exports.

Head 2.—Tonnage, etc., £449—Abolition of landing dues during 1927–28.

The expenditure during 1928–29 was £101,331 as against £83,148 for 1927–28.

This large difference was chiefly accounted for by the following items of increased expenditure :—

	£
Head 2.—Pensions, etc.	872
Head 13.—Hospitals, etc.	1,225
Head 22.—Miscellaneous	1,716
Head 25.—Public Works Recurrent	1,565
Head 26.—Extraordinary	6,348
Head 26.— Do. from gifts	2,330
Head 29.—Hurricane Damage	2,378

The new buildings and works carried out during the year were :—

Women's Wards at the Central Lunatic Asylum, Public Swimming Bath, Buildings at the Leper Home, Purchase of House as Colonial Secretary's Residence, new pipe line for Water Service, etc.

The surplus carried forward at 31st March, 1929, was £721.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt at the end of the year was £145,100 against which the investments held on behalf of the Sinking Fund amounted to £92,543.

RESERVE FUND.

Investments amounting to £12,136 were held by the Crown Agents at the 31st March, 1929.

III.—PRODUCTION.

AGRICULTURAL.

Sugar.—The year 1928 was on the whole a favourable one although the severe drought which lasted from December, 1927, until the end of February together with drought again in the months of April to September considerably reduced the 1928 crop and exerted a very unfavourable influence on the canes planted for reaping in 1929. The export of sugar (grey crystals) amounted, however, to 18,906 tons, valued at approximately £245,780. Little muscovado was produced during 1928, only one factory operating. The quantities of molasses and fancy syrup exported for the period in question were :—

Vacuum Pan Molasses	529,800 gallons.
Fancy syrup	43,500 ,,

The Antigua Sugar Factory had a very successful year. The output of sugar was 17,088 tons, which sold at £14 13*s.* 1*d.* per ton. The most striking feature of the factory's work during 1928 was the extraordinary high yield of sugar obtained from the canes, viz :— 13.10 per cent. or 7.63 tons of cane per ton of sugar against the average of 11 per cent. or 9.09 tons cane per ton of sugar.

The output of sugar in Antigua is closely correlated with weather conditions. The following summary of the sugar exports for the period 1924–1928 exhibits considerable fluctuations attributable almost entirely to variations in rainfall during the growing season.

Sugar Exports, 1924–1928.

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
Sugar	7,081	16,530	11,466	22,269	18,906
	gals.	gals.	gals.	gals.	gals.
Vacuum Pan molasses ...	359,720	128,000	382,836	715,377	529,800
Syrup Muscovado molasses	—	—	29,548	36,454	43,500

Cotton.—The acreage from which the 1928 cotton crop was reaped amounted to 248 acres. The crop was badly attacked by the Pink Boll worm and the return was small, only 17,700 lb. of lint cotton, valued at £1,770 being exported. 45,850 lb. of cotton seed, valued at £110, was exported to other Presidencies of the Leeward Islands.

During September there was a severe hurricane which destroyed most of the cotton planted for the 1929 crop so that in most districts replanting was necessary in September or October. The acreage finally planted was 225 acres. There was a remarkable freedom from Pink Boll worm and excellent promise of a large crop in 1929.

Onions.—The onion crop was again a small one, only 1,650 lb. being exported.

Limes.—The following lime products were exported during 1928 :

		Valued at
Green limes	49 brls.	£22
Raw lime juice	840 gals.	£42
Concentrated lime juice	2,350 gals.	£437
Lime oil	108 gals.	£1,215

As a result of the decrease in the Dominica lime crops since the advent of wither tip and red root diseases and of the very high prices now being obtained for lime oil considerable interest has been displayed in this industry and it seems probable that the area under limes will be increased considerably in the near future.

Coconuts.—Many of the coconut plantations suffered severely in the 1928 hurricane : this is all the more unfortunate as during 1926 and 1927 they had been slowly recovering from the effects of several dry years.

The young plants distributed free to peasants through the generosity of Mr. Macaulay (see 1927 Report, page 21) are doing fairly well notwithstanding the long drought experienced.

Minor Agricultural Products.

The minor products exported include :—

			£
Hides and skins to the value of		... ...	297
Tamarinds	,, ,,	... ...	611
Hardwood	,, ,,	... ...	60
Turtle shell	,, ,,	... ...	93

With the initiation of the new steamship service between Canada and the West Indies interest has been shown in the growing of vegetables for the Canadian winter market and two planters have cultivated trial plots of tomatoes and cucumbers under Government guarantees against loss. The produce is being shipped by the Government with a view to ascertaining the possibilities of developing the vegetable industry under Antigua conditions.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, ANTIGUA.

The following table gives the value of the trade and the principal countries with which the trade was carried on :—

	1927.		1928.	
	Imports.	*Exports.*	*Imports.*	*Exports.*
United Kingdom	91,957	101,748	83,513	202,450
Canada	53,882	274,249	55,038	47,923
Other British Possessions	27,310	6,223	22,267	6,641
United States of America	78,999	5,035	71,659	2,086
Other Foreign Countries	12,270	2	13,687	—
	264,418	387,257	246,164	259,100

The tonnage and value of the sugar included in the above exports were :—

	Tons.	*Value.*
		£
1927	22,269	361,854
1928	18,906	245,788

SHIPPING.

The tonnage of the vessels entered and cleared during the past two years is given below :—

	1927.		1928.	
	Entered.	*Cleared.*	*Entered.*	*Cleared.*
British ...	381,829	381,829	404,658	404,658
Foreign ...	80,163	80,163	77,343	77,343

TARIFF CHANGES.

Boy Scouts' Uniforms and Equipment declared free of Import Duty (S.R. & O. 4/28).

Lime.—Import Duty altered to 15 per cent. full rate, 10 per cent. preferential rate ad valorem (S.R. & O. 14/28).

Quinine declared free of Import Duty (S.R. & O. 21/28).

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

The following steamship lines call at Antigua :—

The Canadian National Steamships from Halifax, N.S., to Bermuda, St. Kitts, Nevis, Antigua, Montserrat, Dominica, St. Lucia, Barbados, St. Vincent, Grenada, Trinidad and Demerara, and return to St. John, N.B., calling at all the islands mentioned.

Furness Withy & Co. Ltd. (Furness Bermuda Line) from New York to St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. Kitts, Antigua, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Lucia, Barbados, and Trinidad, and return via the same ports to New York.

The Ocean Dominion Line from New York to St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. Kitts, Antigua, Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique, St. Lucia, Barbados, Trinidad, Grenada, St. Vincent, Dominica, New York.

The Ocean Dominion Steamship Corporation from Montreal and Halifax to Bermuda, St. Kitts, Antigua, Barbados, St. Vincent, Grenada, Trinidad, Demerara and return to Montreal via Trinidad and Barbados.

A cargo steamer from London (Harrison Line) proceeds direct to Antigua and St. Kitts every two months, and a passenger ship of this line or of the Elders and Fyffes Line will call at Antigua, sailing direct to or from England if a sufficient number of passengers offers. Normally passengers travelling between England and the Leeward Islands travel direct between Barbados and England by the Elders and Fyffes Line, or Harrison Line, or the Royal Dutch West India Line, etc., and between Barbados and the Leeward Islands by the Canadian National Steamships Line or by the Furness Bermuda Line. Passengers may also travel to or from England via New York or Canada by the lines mentioned above, but in practice the route via Barbados is usually adopted for passenger traffic for Europe.

RAILWAYS.

There are two railways in Antigua, one of 30 miles constructed and owned by the Antigua Sugar Factory Ltd., and the other of 8 miles constructed by the Bendals (Antigua) Sugar Factory and owned by the South Western Estates Ltd. These railways are used to convey canes to the factories and in the case of the Antigua Sugar Factory the sugar is conveyed from the Factory to the Wharf. There are no passenger lines.

ROADS.

There are over 100 miles of first class roads in Antigua. These roads are maintained by the Government, and having regard to the comparatively small amount available for their maintenance, they are kept in fairly good condition.

POSTAL.

The Postal Administration of the Colony is vested in the Governor in Federal Executive Council. Mails with Great Britain are exchanged via New York, and via Barbados, and direct with Canada, the United States and the British West Indies.

The rates of postage are as follows :—

Inland Letters.—1*d.* for the first 2 oz., ½*d.* per additional 2 oz. Post Cards, ½*d.*

British Empire and United States.—Letters, 1½*d.* for the first 1 oz., 1*d.* per additional oz. Post Cards, 1*d.*

Other Places.—Letters, 2½*d.* for the first oz., 1½*d.* per additional oz. Post Cards, 1*d.*

Printed matter, ½*d.* per 2 oz. to all places.

Parcels are despatched by parcels post with Great Britain via Barbados, or Canada, or New York (limit of weight, 22lb.), and direct with Canada (limit of weight, 15 lb.), the United States (limit of weight, 22 lb.), and British West Indies (limit of weight, 22 lb.).

Imperial Postal Orders are issued and paid in the Colony and Money Orders are exchanged direct with Great Britain, Canada, the United States and the British West Indies.

CABLES.

Telegraphic communication is maintained by means of wireless and cable. There are wireless stations in Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica and Montserrat. Telegrams for the Virgin Islands are transmitted via St. Thomas.

TELEPHONES.

A telephone system throughout the island is maintained by the Government. The Central Exchange is in St. John's and there are sub-offices at Parham and All Saints.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Prisoners sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment are sent to the Common Prison of the Leeward Islands, in Antigua, and immediately before the expiration of their sentences are returned to the Presidencies from which they were committed.

One hundred and thirty-nine prisoners (75 males and 64 females) were admitted during the year. The highest number of prisoners in custody at any one time during the year was 66 (48 males and 18 females), the lowest was 41 (39 males and 2 females). The expenditure on the Central Prison was £2,050 15*s*. 9*d*.; the receipts, £219 9*s*. 6*d*.

The daily average number of prisoners was 53, and is the lowest on record, with the exception of the year 1908 when it was 51. The cost of the maintenance of each prisoner was £34 11*s*. 1*d*.

There were two deaths in the prison; one from pulmonary tuberculosis and the other from the execution of the death sentence.

Accommodation of the prison:—

Males—			
Separate cells	72	to hold	72
Association cells	7	,,	35
Infirmary ward	1	,,	9
Total for males			116
Females—			
Separate cells	20	to hold	20
Association cells	3	,,	9
Infirmary ward	1	,,	3
Total for females			32

Comparative table of Criminal Statistics for 1927 and 1928:—

	1927.	1928.
Cases reported to the Police ...	6,650	7,483
Number of cases brought before the Magisterial Courts.	16,173	15,740
Summary convictions	10,036	9,790
Indictments in the Superior Courts	81	62
Convictions in the Superior Courts	35	27

ST. JOHN'S TRAINING SCHOOL.

The St. John's Training School was established under the provisions of the Leeward Islands Act, No. 4, of 1891, for the reformation, education, and training of boys under 18 years of age.

On the 1st April, 1928, there were 12 boys at the school. During the year four boys were received. One boy was discharged during the year, leaving 15 boys in the school on the 31st March, 1929. The daily average was 13. The boys regularly attended the Anglican and Roman Catholic Church services, respectively, on Sunday mornings, and in addition, the Anglican boys attended at the Cathedral, for religious instruction, on Sunday afternoons.

The boys received the customary instruction from the Schoolmaster ; the school hours being from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily, except on Saturdays and Sundays.

The staff consists of the Superintendent, the Schoolmaster, and two junior officers.

The expenditure was £332 5*s.* 0*d.*, the cost per head to Antigua being £25 11*s.* 2*d.* The health of the school was good. The boys were employed in agriculture and garden work in addition to the ordinary work of the school.

POLICE.

The actual strength of the Leeward Islands Police Force on the 31st December, 1928, was 6 officers and 142 non-commissioned officers and men. The authorised establishment, as provided for in the Colonial Estimates for the different Presidencies, is 7 officers and 147 non-commissioned officers and men.

Colonel-Commandant A. Mudge, C.B., C.M.G., Inspector-General West India Local Forces, inspected the Local Forces, including the Leeward Islands Police Force, during the year, and his report was satisfactory.

The health of all ranks during the year was, on the whole, satisfactory.

The general peace of the Colony was undisturbed during the year. There were no strikes or labour troubles calling for police interference.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

ANTIGUA.

The more important Public Works completed or nearly completed during the year were :—

1. A new Poor House styled " The Fiennes Institute," comprising—

    2 Main wards to hold 40 beds each,
    2 Infirmary wards to hold 20 beds each,
    Master's Quarters,
    Nurses' Quarters,
    Dining Hall.

    Kitchen, Laundry work shed, together with latrines and baths and kitchens for Master's and Nurses' Quarters, and also two large store rooms, in all 17 buildings.

2. The reconstruction of the Leper Home at Rat Island, now called " The Citadel."

3. The erection of two wards at the Lunatic Asylum out of Mr. T. B. Macaulay's gift.
4. The erection of bathing huts, etc., at Fort James.
5. New Kerosene Warehouse.
6. Concrete room for Court Records at Court House.
7. School latrines at Green Bay.
8. Water supply line to Green Bay.
9. Duplicating main pipe line to City (section done).

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The health of the Presidency has not been as good in 1928 as it was last year. During the first quarter of the year, malaria was prevalent in all the Medical Districts. A Committee was appointed to enquire into and deal with the question of combating this disease. Special Inspectors were appointed to investigate and deal with the breeding places of mosquitoes. Quinine was distributed in the Country Districts free of charge. As compared with 1927, statistics show that there were fewer cases of malaria between the months of August and December, 1928, than in the corresponding period of the previous year, the figures being 594 cases in 1927 and 243 in 1928. As a result of the hurricane which passed over Antigua on the 12th September, 1928, Dysentery, Influenza, and Whooping Cough became very prevalent during the last three months of the year. Some fish (*Gambusia Affinis*) were imported from the United States of America and placed in some of the permanent ponds, which will be used as nurseries if the fish become successfully acclimatised.

No quarantinable disease was recorded in the year under review.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population on the 31st December, 1928, was 30,444. The total number of births during the year was 1,005. The birth rate was 33.01 per thousand. The total number of deaths during the year was 956. The death rate was 31.4 per thousand.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 280 deaths of children under 5 years of age, exclusive of still-births, the death rate being 297.87 per thousand. The high percentage of infantile mortality is chiefly due to intestinal diseases such as dysentery, and there are a fair number of congenital syphilitics who die in the first two years.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

There is a Superintendent of Midwives, who has under her charge 23 District Nurses stationed in the various villages throughout the island. These nurses, in addition to midwifery, render first aid and do dressings under the directions of the District Medical Officers. These nurses are supplied with quinine for free distribution in the villages. There is a Day Nursery in St. John's, which is visited three times each week by the Superintendent of Midwives.

IX.—EDUCATION.

ELEMENTARY.

The number of elementary schools in the Colony during the year was 107, distributed as follows:—

Presidency.	*Government.*	*State-aided.*	*Total.*
1. Antigua	19	2	21
2. St. Kitts	16	2	18
Nevis	10	—	10
Anguilla	5	—	5
3. Dominica	26	4	30
4. Montserrat	—	13	13
5. Virgin Islands	—	10	10
Totals ...	76	31	107

The numbers enrolled and in average attendance were:—

Whole Colony.	1927–28.	1928–29.
Number on roll	24,832	25,014
Average attendance ...	15,947	16,079

The total expenditure in the primary schools, exclusive of salaries of the departmental officers and of establishment charges, was £20,918 2*s*. 0½*d*. against £17,673 13*s*. 1*d*. in the previous year.

SECONDARY.

The following is a list of the secondary schools in the Colony with their respective grants or cost (in the case of Government schools):—

School.	*Grant-in-Aid.*	*Cost (Government School).*
	£	£
1. Antigua Grammar School	630	—
2. Antigua Girls' High School ...	200	—
3. Dominica Grammar School ...	—	731
4. St. Kitts Nevis Grammar School ...	—	1,070
5. Excelsior School, Nevis	50	—
6. Thomas Oliver Robinson Memorial School, Antigua.	50	—
7. Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, Antigua.	240	—
8. Montserrat Grammar School ...	—	695
9. Montserrat Girls' School	100	—

A Scholarship of £150 a year for three years, tenable at a University to be approved by the Governor, is awarded on the results of the Cambridge School Certificate Examination. The Scholarship is open to both boys and girls under 19 years of age.

Note.—From the 1st April, 1929, the value of this Scholarship has been increased to £200 a year, and the period extended to five years, if necessary.

The primary schools in Antigua, Dominica and St. Kitts-Nevis are all under direct Government control, and are managed by a Sub-Inspector of Schools in each Presidency.

In Montserrat and the Virgin Islands they are, with one exception, denominational, and are managed by the clergy of the various denominations, under the general control of the Education Boards. The schools are examined annually by the Inspector of Schools, and grants are awarded on the results of this examination. The pupil-teacher system is in vogue, the period of service being three years. Studentships are awarded to specially selected candidates, at the conclusion of their pupil teachership, for two years to complete their training as assistant teachers. Those for girls are held at the Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, Antigua, and those for boys at the Rawle Training Institute, Codrington College, Barbados.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

(*Including Geological Survey*).

No surveys were carried out in the Presidency during the year.

XI.—LABOUR.

There is no immigrant labour in the Presidency. The inhabitants supply all the labour required for Agricultural and other purposes.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

LEGISLATION.

Leeward Islands.

Nine Acts were passed by the General Legislative Council during the year 1928, and of these the most important were :—

No. 3 of 1928, entitled "An Act to amend the law with respect to local Naturalization."

No. 6 of 1928, entitled "An Act to amend further the law relating to pensions."

No. 7 of 1928, entitled "An Act to establish a Real Representative and to amend the Title by Registration Act, 1886."

No. 8 of 1928, entitled "An Act to amend the Law relating to Friendly Societies."

Antigua.

Nineteen Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of Antigua during the year 1928, and of these the most important were :—

No. 7 of 1928, entitled " An Ordinance to amend the Harbour Launches Ordinance, 1919."

No. 8 of 1928, entitled " An Ordinance to make provision for the protection against lead poisoning of persons employed in painting buildings."

No. 11 of 1928, entitled " An Ordinance to amend the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, 1926."

No. 16 of 1928, entitled " An Ordinance to amend the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Ordinance, 1928.

No. 19 of 1928, entitled " An Ordinance to provide for the licensing and regulation of motor vehicles plying for hire, and the licensing of the drivers thereof."

PRESIDENCY OF ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Presidency consists of the islands of St. Christopher (St. Kitts), Nevis, and Anguilla. They form a total area of 153 square miles. They lie between latitude 19° and 17° north and longitude 63° and 62° west ; being about 60 miles west of Antigua and about 500 miles north of Trinidad. They are distant some 3,600 miles from England, and 1,680 miles from Halifax, Nova Scotia.

HISTORICAL.

St. Kitts, " the Mother Colony " of the West Indies, was in 1623 colonized by Sir Thomas Warner, who subsequently despatched branch settlements to other West Indian islands. It was for some time afterwards divided between the English and the French, but since the Treaty of Versailles in 1783 has been wholly British. In 1782 occurred the historic siege of Brimstone Hill, " the Gibraltar of the West Indies," by the French, and though it ultimately yielded " with all the honours of war " its prolonged and gallant resistance held back half the French supporting fleet from joining the other half, and consequently enabled Rodney's victory which saved the West Indies. Up till 1671 the islands of St. Kitts, Nevis, Barbados and Montserrat were governed from St. Kitts, but in that year Nevis became the seat of government, and at the same time Barbados was separated from the group, which then became known as " the Leeward Caribee Islands."

In 1816, St. Kitts, Nevis, Anguilla and the Virgin Islands were formed into a separate Government, but in 1832 they were rejoined to the other part of the Colony, but placed under a separate Lieutenant Governor. In 1871 all parts of the Leeward Islands Colony were united into a Federation, and the office of "Lieutenant Governor" of St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla was changed to "Administrator" of the same. The form of constitution of a Crown Colony is still, however, retained and the Administrator is assisted by an Executive Council; and the laws of the Presidency are made by a Legislative Council. There are 5 local official and 4 unofficial members of the Executive Council; and 7 official and 7 unofficial members of the Legislative Council, the Administrator being President and having a casting vote. The three islands are rich in history, from the time of the Caribs who were in possession when Columbus discovered St. Kitts in 1493 to the middle of the 19th century when the Brimstone Hill Fortress was evacuated to send the troops to the Crimea, and the names of Rodney, Hood, Nelson (who was married at Nevis), "Pocohontas" Smith (who discovered the hot baths at Nevis), Hamilton (a son of Nevis who drafted the American Constitution), constantly occurred in the despatches and records, many of which have through former neglect decayed beyond repair. An effort is now being made to save the remainder.

I. GENERAL.

The outstanding event of the year was the severe hurricane which, on 12th September, struck all three islands of the Presidency in varying degree. Many large buildings, both public and private, were damaged, while 1,556 labourers' and peasants' cottages in St. Kitts, 1,618 in Nevis, and a few in Anguilla, were either damaged or totally destroyed. The reconstruction of the cottages was assisted to the extent of £12,800 from the central relief fund of the Colony provided by generous subscribers from the United Kingdom and overseas, while £1,500 was the Presidency's share of the Imperial Grant towards the expenditure of repairing the damage to Government property. Many new public works and improvements had been either completed or under construction before the hurricane, and these were fortunately but little affected by it. Among them were the large new storage reservoir above Basseterre, the Children's Ward at the Cunningham Hospital and a wide concrete staircase to the main buildings, modern waiting rooms and lavatories at the end of the new Basseterre west pier; the model village settlement, called St. Johnston village, on Government lands at La Guerite; and a hot water system and water-flush closets at the Leper Hospital.

The poorer quarter of Basseterre has been transformed by the cutting of six new streets through it, admitting light, ventilation, order, and cleanliness, while communal baths and water closets have been installed at appropriate places.

The wooden store shed for Government cotton and agricultural produce, and the wooden laboratory at the Grammar School, having been demolished by the hurricane have been re-erected in concrete; and the Pogson Hospital and the Crèche at Sandy Point have, for the same reason, had to be entirely reconstructed.

II. FINANCE.

REVENUE.

The revenue for the financial year 1928–29, estimated at £93,310 is expected to reach £95,200, which, with the Presidency's proportion (£1,500) of the Imperial Grant of £5,000 for repairs to Government property damaged by the hurricane of September 1928, will bring the total revenue on 31st March 1929 to £96,700. Excesses in amounts expected to be collected for Import duties £2,000; Income Tax £2,000; Government Cotton Farm receipts, Stamp duties and Electric Light Current account for the increase in revenue, while Export duty and Sale of Postage stamps have fallen £1,500 and £500 respectively below the original estimate. The net revenue will exceed that of 1927–28 by £1,040 and that of 1923–24 by £2,972. Revenue for the past five years was as follows :—

1923–24	£93,228.
1924–25	£88,095.
1925–26	£90,405.
1926–27	£88,103.
1927–28	£94,160.

There has been no change in the method of raising revenue and no alteration in the rate of taxation in 1928.

EXPENDITURE.

The Estimate of Expenditure for 1928–29 was £92,856. Supplementary estimates during the year will amount to approximately £10,000 after deducting savings on sundry heads of the original Estimates, the expenditure for the current financial year will amount to £101,667. This includes the following works, the expenditure on which was not foreseen when the Estimates were passed :—

	£
Electric Light, to supplement loan of £10,000, and to complete system of lighting town of Basseterre.	2,500
Water Reservoir, Basseterre, to complete	1,500
Opening up of slum area in Basseterre (part of total of £3,000 to be spent).	1,560
Cottages for discharged inmates of Leper Home ...	125
Water supply, Brick-kiln, Nevis	100
Water supply, Cotton Ground and Jessups	350
Repairing hurricane damage (of which £1,500 was reimbursed by the Imperial Government).	4,040

Expenditure will exceed that of 1927–28 by £8,554, and that of 1923–24 by £8,972. Expenditure for the past five years was as follows :—

1923–24	£92,695.
1924–25	£95,509.
1925–26	£88,888.
1926–27	£86,418.
1927–28	£93,113.

SURPLUS.

	£
The year opened with a surplus of	4,966
Revenue for 1928–29 will be approximately... ...	95,200
including Imperial Grant-in-aid of	1,500
	£101,666

As it is not improbable that Expenditure for 1928–29 might exceed this amount, there will be no surplus funds on 31st March, 1929.

RESERVE.

The Reserve Fund, invested in England, was £10,750 on 31st December last, with a market value on that date of £12,070. It is proposed to sell out £1,750 of the Reserve to meet the deficit caused by hurricane expenditure.

LOAN.

The sum of £10,000 raised locally under the provisions of Ordinance No. 12 of 1927 for the installation of an Electricity Supply System for the Town of Basseterre was totally expended in 1928, the streets being lit in April. The following is a full statement of the Loan position of the Presidency on 31st December, 1928, showing the operation of the Sinking Funds :—

STATEMENT OF FUNDED PUBLIC DEBT OR LOANS BORROWED FOR FIXED PERIODS OUTSTANDING ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1927, AND OF THE ACCUMULATED SINKING FUNDS AT THE SAME DATE.

Description of Loan.	*Legal Authority.*	*Am't.*	*Rate of Interest.*	*Sinking Funds.*			*Date or period of Redemption.*	*Actual due date.*	*Rate of Sinking Fund.*
				Amount of Stock 31-12-28.	*Cost Price* 31-12-28.	*Market Value* 31-3-28.			
Basseterre Protection Loan.	Ordinance 5 of 1385.	£ 3,900	5%	4,353 2 6	4,120 3 4	3,790 6 6	To be paid off when Sinking Fund is sufficient by half-yearly investment of a sum equal by 1 per cent. of total amount issued.	1930	1% of Loan per annum.
Nevis Water Works Loan of 1889 and P. W. Loan of 1893 (now Inscribed Stock)	10 of 1889, 6 of 1893 now 4 of 1893.	31,850	4%	23,261 10 3	21,800 16 9	20,597 6 3	do.	1st April 1919/ 1944	do.
P. W. Loan 1891.	4 of 1891	23,500	½%	20,006 9 8	18,065 9 7	16,804 13 2	do.	1st April 1939	do.
Electric Light Loan	12 of 1927	10,000	5%					1st Nov. 1967	do.
		£69,250		47,621 2 5	43,986 9 8	41,192 5 11			

Contributions to Sinking Fund of the Public Works Loan of 1891 ceased during 1928, the fund being potentially full, and the necessary legislation was passed to give effect to this (Ordinance, No. 8 of 1928).

PUBLIC DEBT.

At the commencement of the financial year 1st April, 1928, the Public Debt, after the amounts to the credit of the

Sinking Funds had been deducted amounted to	£26,731 11 5
Credits to Sinking Funds 1st April to 31st December, 1928, amounted to	1,468 1 1
Leaving the Public Debt on 31st December, 1928, at	£25,263 10 4

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

IMPORTS.

The value of imports into the Presidency in 1928 amounted to £317,102, which was £12,316 less than the value of the imports of 1927.

The following is a summary of the Imports for the past three years :—

From	1926 £	1927 £	1928 £
United Kingdom	94,312	119,075	104,304
Canada	138,962	84,647	82,021
India	16,372	12,191	10,617
Bermuda	324	1,184	238
British Guiana	8,551	3,682	3,963
Trinidad	3,520	8,126	8,097
Barbados	4,023	4,697	5,598
Jamaica	49	15	50
Windward Islands	350	157	161
Leeward Islands	1,720	2,008	924
Other British Possessions ...	144	264	1,277
Total British Possessions... ...	174,015	116,971	112,946
United States	78,256	71,951	78,654
Denmark	682	829	569
Holland	5,885	6,130	7,301
France	3,367	3,710	4,445
Germany	968	2,643	1,513
Santo Domingo	5,002	1,098	475
Other Foreign Countries	4,086	7,011	6,895
Total Foreign Countries	98,246	93,372	99,852
Total Imports 1927	£366,573	329,418	317,102

The following is a Comparative return of the Imports of the principal articles during the past three years :—

Article.	1926. *Quantity.*	1926. *Value.*	1927. *Quantity.*	1927. *Value.*	1928. *Quantity.*	1928. *Value.*
		£		£		£
Beer, Ale and Stout ... galls.	4,689	1,064	11,126	2,163	10,355	2,277
Boots and Shoes ...doz.prs.	11,216	3,633	1,935	6,002	1,726	5,943
Cement brls. of 400 lbs.	3,932	2,117	3,755	2,894	6,462	5,280
Cotton piece goods ... yds.	496,103	14,466	854,016	21,053	579,958	24,393
Flour ... ... bags	22,506	39,143	22,711	26,178	33,124	35,728
Manures, Chemical ... tons	366	5,196	521	6,730	566	6,464
Machinery						
Agricultural		1,796		4,693		864
Sugar		5,743		4,439		6,051
Milk, condensed ... lbs.	6,160	290	6,156	291	7,617	334
Motor Cars	32	3,958	61	9,098	32	4,228
Parts including tyres ...		2,349		2,640		878
Tyres						2,075
Oils, Kerosine ... galls.	46,741	3,562	65,349	3,995	48,243	2,562
Gasoline ... galls.	62,688	5,455	72,226	6,098	90,490	7,049
Paints and Colours ... lbs.	30,774	875	39,228	1,163	46,156	1,304
Sacks and bags ... doz.	13,083	12,392	14,110	8,483	14,487	8,327
Soap ... ... lbs.	243,777	4,459	215,818	3,930	195,638	3,704
Spirits						
Whisky ... ... galls.	6,979	7,233	8,786	9,338	12,308	13,370
Brandy ... ... galls.	226	198	174	209	284	382
Gin ... ... galls.	6,078	2,303	7,997	3,354	8,772	3,980
Rum ... ... galls.	7,674	796	12,061	1,505	8,487	1,024
Tea ... ... lbs.	7,140	871	8,856	1,015	7,097	790

14,134 parcels, of which 1,187 were C.O.D., passed through the Customs for collection of duty during the year. Proper accommodation has now been provided for this and for examination of passengers' baggage, the work consequently being carried out with increased efficiency and despatch.

EXPORTS.

The total value of exports in 1928 was £349,645, a decrease in value of £3,761 as compared with the year 1927 and £10,144 in 1923. The principal export, sugar, amounted to 18,610 tons valued at £265,490. The exports of this commodity in 1927 were 17,363 tons valued at £282,784 and in 1923 10,356 tons valued at £277,111. The exports to Canada in 1928 were valued at £90,504, a decrease of £15,364 as compared with 1927 and £46,804 in 1923, while the value of exports to the United Kingdom increased from £114,704 in 1927 to £213,767 in 1928. The total value of re-exports (principally food-stuffs to neighbouring foreign islands and liquor to the Virgin Islands) amounted in 1928 to £36,207 as compared with £19,569 in 1927 and £20,539 in 1923.

Sugar Crops.

The St. Kitts Sugar Factory made 19,443 tons and the average price obtained was £14 18*s.* 0*d.* per ton, as compared with 18,067 tons in 1927 and 10,737 tons in 1923 with average prices of £16 14*s.* 7*d.* and £26 3*s.* 7*d.* respectively. Of this 12,450 tons valued at £173,847 were sent to the United Kingdom and 6,000 tons valued at £88,810 to Canada, as compared with 4,650 tons valued at £75,946 and 12,550 tons valued at £203,690 in 1927. In 1923, 5,000 tons valued at £130,896 went to the United Kingdom, 5,086 tons valued at £133,146 to Canada and 250 tons valued at £6,545 to the United States of America.

Cotton.

In 1928 the exports of Sea Island Cotton amounted to 438,552 lbs. valued at £36,038, an average price of 19*d.* per lb., as compared with 387,167 lbs., in 1927 and 625,041 lbs. in 1923 with values of £35,205 (21*d.* per lb.) and £54,409 (20*d.* per lb.) respectively. Of the 1928 cotton exports 282,023 lbs., valued at £23,988 were produced in St. Kitts, 155,023 lbs., valued at £11,956 in Nevis, and 1,506 lbs. valued at £94 in Anguilla, all of which was exported to the United Kingdom.

SHIPPING.

The total number of steamers entered at the port of Basseterre, St. Kitts, in 1928 was 248 of a total tonnage of 604,540, as compared with 188 of 429,855 tons in 1927, and 162 of 471,734 in 1923. Steamers of British tonnage entered and cleared in 1928 amounted to 1,079,502 tons, and foreign steamships 128,474 tons, as compared with 745,684 and 83,494 in 1923. Total tonnage entered and cleared in 1928 was 1,236,450 ; in 1923 848,423.

V. COMMUNICATIONS.

Internal communication is by vehicular traffic on macadamised roads. There are 29 miles of main road and 37 miles of by-roads in St. Kitts, and in Nevis there are 60 miles altogether. Anguilla has about 15 miles open to vehicular traffic. Over 300 motor cars and 16 motor omnibuses are constantly travelling on the roads.

The St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory Ltd. has a light railway (36 miles) right round St. Kitts for getting the cane to the Factory at Basseterre.

Communication between St. Kitts and Nevis is by sailing boat daily. The Government is inaugurating an efficient motor boat service (mail and passenger) between the two islands and a double trip will be made by this boat.

A regular weekly mail service by sloop exists with Anguilla, but there are occasional opportunities by larger vessels.

Communication with the outside world is by wireless through the System at present operated by the Pacific Cable Board, and the West India and Panama Telegraph Company Ltd. still operates in St. Kitts and is well patronized.

Efficient telephone systems are maintained in St. Kitts and Nevis. In Anguilla there is a limited single line system.

An attempt is being made to establish either wireless telephony between the Administrator's Office at Kitts and the Magistrate's

Office, Anguilla, or a wireless telegraph system for sending and receiving messages with the Pacific Cable Board Wireless Station in St. Kitts.

Steamers of the Canadian National Steamship Company call fortnightly to and from Canada, as also steamers of the Furness Withy Company from New York. There are many other steamers calling at St. Kitts, including direct boats from the United Kingdom of the Harrison Line. 248 steamers arrived at Basseterre in the year under review.

There is a daily land mail service throughout St. Kitts and Nevis. Towards the end of the year a Loan of £10,000 was floated for the purposes of Electric Light and Cold Storage at Charlestown, Nevis ; Cold Storage at Basseterre ; an auxiliary vessel for the St. Kitts to Nevis Service ; and for commencing a system of hire-purchase houses for the working classes.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

There is a resident Judge (Federal appointment) in St. Kitts. The Supreme Court sits once a quarter. Magistrates are Presidential officers. Two are stationed in St. Kitts and one each in Nevis and Anguilla. In Nevis the Magistrate is also Warden. The Magistrate in Anguilla is also the Medical Officer and Chief Executive Officer in the island.

The police are a Federal Body, and the emoluments of the resident Inspector are borne on the Federal Estimates. The remaining personnel are paid from local funds.

The Prison is also governed by Federal Laws, but the Establishment is a Presidential one. The Inspector of Police is responsible for the maintenance of proper discipline in His Majesty's prison.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Reference has been made to some of the new public works under the heading "General." The routine work of the Public Works Department has been satisfactorily carried out during the year.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH AND VITAL STATISTICS.

With the exception of an outbreak of Malaria in Nevis between November and February, with fortunately a very mild mortality rate, the islands have remained generally in a healthy condition, although the after effects of the hurricane will be felt for some time to come. Sanitation both in the capital and in the country districts has much improved, and the use of a motor scavenging service, and the installation of water flush closets in most of the better class houses and communal lavatories in the poorer quarters, have assisted greatly in this direction. Emigration to Santo Domingo and Cuba has been much lessened, but there has been a corresponding increase to Curacao in connection with the development of the

South American Oilfields. It is, however, hoped and expected that the emigrants, who are mostly men, will make it only a temporary absence for money-making purposes from their homes and families, as there is a distinct and hopeful spirit of establishing good and permanent homes for themselves in their own country arising among the people. The general population of the Presidency is estimated at about 36,000, and that of Basseterre, the Capital, at about 8,000. Basseterre is a flourishing port and distributing centre for not only the smaller British islands but also for the Dutch islands of Saba, St. Eustatius, and St. Martin, and the French islands of St. Bartholomew and St. Martin.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Primary Education is compulsory, and is in charge of a local Inspector of Schools assisted by 31 Head Teachers and nearly a hundred Assistant and Pupil Teachers in the 31 schools of the Presidency.

Secondary Education is provided for boys by a Government school conducted by a qualified English Headmaster and two Assistants. The school is run on similar lines to an English Grammar School. The standard attained is usually that of the Cambridge School Certificate.

There is a good Secondary School for Girls maintained by the Sisters of the Convent at St. Kitts, and another secondary school at Nevis.

A Government Secondary School for Girls is also being arranged for.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

The fertile volcanic soil of St. Kitts is agriculturally almost perfect, and the planters make good use of its possibilities. A modern factory, one of the largest and most up to date in the West Indies, manufactures all the sugar of St. Kitts from the canes brought to it by a railway that encircles the whole island. The Government has now only a few acres of land, and these are used for experimental purposes, the greater portion being retained for cotton cultivation, the more important factor of which is the rearing and selection of seed of a standard quality to ensure the continuance of the reputation which the Presidency has secured for fine Sea Island Cotton. Important experiments in the breeding of selected varieties of Sugar Cane are also continuously carried out.

GEOLOGY.

St. Kitts and Nevis are almost entirely composed of volcanic eruptive rocks and their derivatives. Anguilla is mostly limestone. A report on the geology of St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla has been written by Mr. Kenneth W. Earle, M.Sc., F.G.S., sometime Government Geologist to the Windward and Leeward Islands.

XI.—LABOUR.

There is no immigrant labour in the Presidency. The inhabitants supply all the labour required for Agricultural and other purposes. During the last year there has been a considerable exodus to Curacao (Dutch). As a consequence there is perhaps a greater shortage of labourers in St. Kitts this year. In previous years during crop time emigration was chiefly directed to Santo Domingo and Cuba. Labourers from the less extensively cultivated islands of Nevis and Anguilla (part of the Presidency) relieve what would otherwise be a difficult problem in St. Kitts.

St. Kitts is the " stepping off " place of many of the islands of the Lesser Antilles whose emigrants yearly seek better wages in the large Sugar producing countries of the West Indies.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Climate.

The islands, owing to their northern situation and exposure to the refreshing Trade Winds, are said to be the coolest and the healthiest of the Lesser Antilles. The continuous slopes down the mountain sides (highest peak in St. Kitts 3,700 feet) to the sea cause a perfect drainage so that no stagnant waters collect and the climate generally, especially from November to May, is ideal. The average rainfall is 54 inches and the shade temperature varies from 66° to 88°. Efforts are being made to encourage a tourist trade, and the facilities for general sport, including tennis, cricket, boating, and sea-fishing, are excellent.

Banks.

There are branches of Barclays Bank (D.C. and O.) and of the Royal Bank of Canada at St. Kitts, and also a Government Savings Bank. The two former use the dollar currency at a fixed rate of $4.80 to the pound. Government accounts are kept in sterling.

DOMINICA.

I.—GENERAL.

As is provided for every three years under the Constitution Ordinance a new Legislative Council was constituted in February last. The general elections for the seats of the four elected members resulted in the return of the Honourable J. B. Charles for the Eastern District, the Honourable L. Rose for the parish of St. George, R. E. A. Nicholls, Esquire, for the town of Roseau, and H. D. Shillingford, Esquire, for the Northern District, which, with the appointments of the Honourable H. H. V. Whitchurch and G. A. C. Grell, Esquire, as nominated members, complete the unofficial side of the Council. The Official section was appointed as usual.

His Honour E. C. Eliot, Administrator, returned from leave of absence in April and resumed the administration of the Government of the Presidency.

The Agricultural Development of the Island progressed during the year, the Loan Board continuing to assist planters with the funds placed at its disposal by the Imperial Government. Estates unable to take advantage of loans were aided by being supplied with free plants for replanting their lands, a total of 103,518 plants having been distributed by the Agricultural Department for the year.

In September the Island was visited by a hurricane of considerable intensity which caused great damage to roads, bridges, the electric light and telephone systems and various Government constructions, the chief of which were as follows :—Three Roseau Jetties, Colihaut Jetty, Fish Market Roseau, Sea Wall Roseau, and Dos d'Ane School. Only one life was lost but many of the poorer classes had their huts with their belongings washed away, as well as having their gardens destroyed. Many launches and a few sloops were also damaged and a considerable portion of the lime crop was destroyed.

A local Hurricane Relief Committee was formed to give relief to the sufferers towards which the sum of £240 17*s.* 9½*d.* was locally subscribed and the sum of £2,600 allotted to Dominica by the Leeward Islands Hurricane Committee.

In spite of the hurricane, there is every indication that the financial condition of the Presidency tends to improve. This is chiefly due to the high prices for lime oils and other lime products, and it is estimated that the Revenue for the financial year 1928–29 will be the highest recorded in the history of Dominica.

The New Canadian National Steamships Service was inaugurated in December when the s.s. *Lady Nelson* made her maiden voyage with an official party from Canada on board. A Tourists Trade Development Committee has been formed.

II.—FINANCE.

The financial year 1928–29 opened with a deficit of £10,601 and closed with a deficit of £5,361.

The ordinary revenue for the year was £67,945, being £9,129 in excess of the estimate of £58,816 and £7,630 more than the actual revenue in 1927–28.

Imperial Grants to the amount of £24,500 were received and are as follows :—

	£
In aid of Revenue	1,000
Sanitary Campaign	3,500
Agricultural Grants	2,000
Agricultural Loans	8,000
Hurricane Damage	10,000
Total ...	£24,500

The Grant of £1,000 in aid of administration is not required in view of the year's working.

Export duty, tonnage, dues, Jetty rates, Botanic Gardens receipts, sale of postage and revenue stamps make up the main part of the excess over the estimate of revenue. The unusually high prices obtained for Oils and for Green Limes are chiefly responsible for the satisfactory revenue received during the year, and if the prices remain steady the outlook for the year 1929–30 should be promising.

The ordinary expenditure for the year was £62,705, an excess of £3,936 over the estimate, and £2,316 more than the ordinary expenditure of the previous year.

Pensions and Public Works Extraordinary are responsible for the greater part of the excess over the estimate, as the former was in excess of the estimate by £1,792 and the latter £1,435 in excess of the estimate.

The chief savings in expenditure appear under Head 10, Police, £450; Head 13, Hospitals, etc., £577; Head 14, Education, £275; Military, £85; and Head 27, Botanical and Agricultural Department, £321.

Expenditure out of Imperial Funds received was as follows :—

	£
Sanitary Campaign	4,333
Agricultural	2,230
Agricultural Loans	1,000
Hurricane Damage	10,249
Total	£17,812

showing a saving of £6,688 on the amount received for those services.

The value of Imports during 1928 is £178,603, being £9,973 in excess of imports in 1927, and the exports for 1928 were valued at £190,622, an excess of £38,401 over the previous year.

Having regard to the conditions existing in Dominica at the present time, the financial position of the Island at 31st March, 1929, may be regarded as satisfactory.

III.—PRODUCTION.

AGRICULTURAL.

The Lime Industry.—The export figures for limes and lime products during the year 1928 show a falling off of 5,000 barrels when represented as fruit. This decrease is attributable to outbreaks of root disease, and the hurricane of the 12th September, 1928.

The Department of Agriculture has laid down large nurseries and is propagating budded and grafted lime trees to replace the seedling lime which is rapidly being destroyed by the ravages of root disease.

It has been demonstrated that budded limes possess qualities superior to the seedling, one of which is immunity to most root troubles.

High prices for lime products held throughout the year and the closing prices for December were Ripe Limes, 15*s.* per barrel; Green Limes, 20*s.* per barrel; Lime Oils, 46*s.* per lb. for essential and 25*s.* per lb. for distilled.

The crop shipped since 1919, calculated in barrels of fruit and expressed in round numbers, is recorded below :—

1919	402,000	Prior to appearance of Withertip.
1920	369,000	
1921	516,000	
1922	400,000	
1923	228,000	
1924	424,000	Owing to carry over from previous year.
1925	230,000	
1926	214,000	
1927	210,000	
1928	205,000	

The following table calculated on the usual basis shows the disposal of the crop under various heads.

Product.	*Barrels of fruit.*	*Approximate percentage of total crop.*
Concentrated lime juice	136,096½	66.1
Raw juice	40,812	19.8
Fresh limes	26,830	13.0
Pickled limes	225	.10
Lime juice cordial...	1,853½	.90

The exports of products of the lime industry during 1928 is recorded below :—

Product.	*Quantity.*	*Value.* £
Concentrated lime juice	90,731 gallons	20,726
Raw lime juice	306,090 gallons	20,947
Lime juice cordial...	337 gallons	51
Fresh limes	26,830 barrels	24,743
Pickled Limes	225 barrels	472
Essential Oil (distilled)	32,174 lb.	37,192
Otto of limes (handpressed or ecuelled).	7,677 lb.	15,383
		£119,514

50 gallons of concentrated juice represents 75 barrels of lime fruits: 7½ gallons of raw juice represents 1 barrel of lime fruits: 1 ton of citrate of lime is equivalent to 266 barrels of lime fruits: 1 ton of citric acid is equivalent to 400 barrels of lime fruits: 1 gallon of lime juice cordial represents 5½ barrels of lime fruits.

Fruit Industry.—During the year a Fruit Ordinance was passed, providing for the establishment of a Central Fruit Packing Depot where the packing, grading, and shipping of fruit will be carried out under Government control.

A visit by the Empire Marketing Board's Citrus expert, Professor Clark Powell, was made in July. He pronounced the possibilities of developing a Grapefruit industry as excellent, owing to the abundance of suitable land, and the estimated low costs of production.

The planting of fruit trees is proceeding, the Agricultural Department having to meet a large demand for budded plants of Grapefruit and Oranges, also Grafted Mangoes. The export of fruit is steadily increasing although the hurricane of the 12th September, 1928, caused considerable damage to this year's crop in certain localities.

Coconuts.—A steady increase in the export of Copra has again to be noted. The official export figures for the last five years being 1924=46,173 lbs., 1925=64,977 lbs., 1926=109,037 lbs., 1927=140,393 lbs., 1928=184,496 lbs. The export of dried nuts has also increased from 187,794 in 1926 to 253,217 in 1928. This shows good progress of the industry especially as a considerable number of dried nuts are purchased by a local soap factory, recently established in Roseau.

Cocoa.—Planters whose estates are favourably situated for the growing of this crop are making extensions and paying more attention to their existing cultivations. The demand for planting material is readily met by the Agricultural Department.

Coffee.—Revived interest in this crop has resulted in considerable plantings being made. The Congo Coffee (Coffea robusta) which grows so well in Dominica is the variety principally in demand although Arabian is also being planted in localities where it is apparently best suited. Uganda Coffee, San Ramon, and Excelsia varieties, introduced by the Department, are now being tried on a field scale.

Vanilla.—Despite the low market price, much planting of this crop has been carried out by the Peasant Proprietors.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The trade of the Presidency in 1928 showed an increase in spite of the hurricane in September. There was an increase in Imports from Canada, especially in the case of wheaten flour and boots and shoes. This can be attributed to the greater preference accorded under the Canadian West Indies Trade Agreement of 1926.

The export trade was remarkable for a continuation of the high prices realised for Lime Oils and Green Limes, which are mainly exported to the United States of America. Raw and concentrated Juice are exported mainly to Great Britain. There has been a notable increase in the export of Copra during recent years. This product goes chiefly to Great Britain. Prices lately have, however, declined somewhat.

There is an opening for the sale of Motor Vehicles of British Manufacture especially as regards motor-cars of the cheap kind which are now being manufactured by certain firms in Great Britain.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

The new ships of the Canadian National Steamships commenced their fortnightly calls in December. They are finely equipped vessels both as regards passenger accommodation and cold storage for perishable cargo.

The Wireless Station carried out efficient service throughout the year.

There is no Inland telegraph service, and the country telephone service was seriously impaired by the hurricane of September. The Inland postal service was well maintained.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The Senior Puisne Judge of the Leeward Islands is resident in Dominica. Three Magistrates divide the island Courts, with an additional Magistrate for Roseau and District.

The efficiency of the Police Force, a detachment of the Leeward Islands Force, was well maintained.

Short sentence prisoners only are retained in the Roseau Prison. Discipline has been satisfactory throughout the year.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Many public works were carried out during the year, the most important being the construction of a new span to the Goodwill Bridge, Roseau River ; the building of a river protection wall above Goodwill Bridge, Roseau River ; and the construction of cottage hospitals at Marigot and Grand Bay. For the latter the Presidency is indebted to Mr. T. B. Macaulay of Canada, who gave a generous donation of £1,000 towards the construction of cottage hospitals and leper treatment centres.

With regard to damage to roads and public services the Imperial Government have made a grant of £5,000, and a loan of £5,000 without interest, for repairs and reconstruction which are progressing favourably. The principal services due to hurricane damage are as follows :—

Restoration of electric light and telephone service, Roseau.

Construction of temporary jetty, Roseau.

Reconstruction of Canefield public road with protection sea-wall.

Construction of new public road deviation through Goodwill Estate.

Rebuilding of Dos d'Ane Schoolhouse and remaking of Pointe Michel Road, Soufriere and Scotts Head Road, and repairs to various other roads throughout the Island.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH—STATISTICS.

The estimated population of Dominica at the end of 1928 was 41,671 as against 41,051 in 1927.

The births registered during the year numbered 1,579 as against 1,341 in 1927, giving a birth-rate of 37.08 per thousand of the population as against 32.66 per thousand in the previous year.

Births.	*Males.*	*Females.*
The legitimate births were	331	322
The illegitimate births were	498	428

leaving an excess of illegitimate births over legitimate births of 273.

The percentage of legitimate and illegitimate births were 41.04 and 58.06 respectively.

In 1927 the illegitimate births exceeded the legitimate births by 163 (752 as against 589 or 56.07 and 43.92 respectively).

Marriages.—The number of marriages recorded in 1928 was 189 as against 192 in 1927, showing a decrease of 3. Of the 189 marriages recorded—

175	were	solemnized	in the	Roman Catholic Church
8	,,	,,	,,	Church of England
5	,,	,,	,,	Wesleyan Church.

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered during 1928 was 490 males and 494 females, making a total of 984 as against 945 in the previous year—an increase of 39, and the death-rate per thousand on the estimated population was 23.06 as against 23.00 per thousand in 1927.

The excess of arrivals over departures for the year was 25, 16 of which were males and 9 females.

A public health campaign is being carried out with funds supplied by the Imperial Government under the direction of a Medical Officer of Health. The sanitation of the town of Roseau and reclamation of swamp land at Portsmouth have progressed satisfactorily.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Primary education is under the supervision of a Federal Inspector of Schools who issues an annual report on the schools of the Colony.

Secondary education for boys is provided for at the Roseau Grammar School with an average of 40 scholars of local parentage.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

The Colonial Engineer is also Surveyor General. Crown Land is available for peasant proprietorship at the low price of 10*s*. an acre, in addition to survey fees. Available land lies, however, at considerable altitudes with consequent difficulty in transport of products.

XI.—LABOUR.

Dominica is an island of peasant proprietors, and there are only a few estates which employ any quantity of labour. Owing to the hurricane of September, labour was in considerable demand for reconstruction and repair work, and therefore there was no large exodus of labourers during the year under review for work on the sugar cultivation of San Domingo, Porto Rico and Curacao, which is usually the case in the latter months of the year.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The Legislative Council passed 16 Ordinances during the year, the principal ones affecting the Revenue being as follows :—

No. 1 of 1928.—" An Ordinance to amend the Road Ordinance, 1914."

No. 2 of 1928.—" An Ordinance to amend further the Customs Import and Export Tariff Consolidation Ordinance, 1925."

No. 5 of 1928.—" An Ordinance to amend further the Customs Import and Export Tariff Consolidation Ordinance, 1925."

No. 6 of 1928.—" An Ordinance to reduce the Excise Duty on Tobacco."

No. 15 of 1928.—" An Ordinance to amend The Bakeries Tax Ordinance, 1925."

Of these Ordinances Nos. 1 and 2 of 1928 were to carry into effect the abolition of the Road Tax and the imposition of an additional surtax on imports in lieu thereof. Ordinance No. 5 of 1928 and

No. 6 of 1928 reduced the Import Duty on unmanufactured tobacco and the Excise Duty on tobacco respectively, and have resulted in an increase of Revenue.

The other more important Ordinances were as follows :—

No. 4 of 1928.—" An Ordinance to regulate the examination and exportation of fruit, to prohibit the shipment of defective fruit, and to make provision for the export of fruit to Canada," to control and further the development of the fruit trade.

No. 12 of 1928.—" An Ordinance for raising funds for the installation of an electricity supply system for the town of Roseau," to provide for a new and up-to-date electric light plant, the present system being in a hopeless condition.

No. 15 of 1928.—" An Ordinance to amend further The Motor Car Ordinance, 1915," and

No. 16 of 1928.—" An Ordinance to amend further the Licences Ordinance, 1922."

MONTSERRAT.

I.—GENERAL.

During the first eight months of the year economic progress was well maintained. With a sufficient and well distributed rainfall, the staple crop, Sea Island Cotton, was exceptionally good, the yield being larger than that of previous years. Considerable effort was made to grow more vegetables and fruit for the Canadian market. The principal events of the year were :

The establishment of the new Grammar School, which is under Government control, at the beginning of the year.

The Agricultural Exhibition opened by His Excellency the Governor on the 9th March.

The addition of three new steamers to the Canadian National Steamships for service between Canada and West Indies, *The Lady Nelson* visiting the island towards the end of December. These vessels are fitted with ample cold storage.

The inauguration of a Peasants' Information Office for the exportation of produce to the Canadian and other markets.

The year 1928 will always be remembered on account of the devastating hurricane which struck this island on the 12th September causing heavy loss of life and property. Many Government buildings, Churches, Schools, Estate and other buildings, and peasants' houses were destroyed.

Damage to Government property was estimated at £9,790. Reconstruction of Government property, Estate buildings, and peasants' houses are well under way, and thanks to the wonderful recuperative power of the Island, normal conditions have practically been re-established.

II.—FINANCE.

	£	s.	d.
The revenue for the financial year 1928–29 amounted to	£30,330	8	11½
which includes £1,681 4*s.* 8*d.* received from Insurance against hurricane damage and £2,500 Imperial Grant-in-aid.			
The Expenditure amounted to	32,277	11	3
of which amount £9,243 6*s.* 1*d.* was spent on hurricane work.			
Both the Revenue and the Expenditure were the largest on record. The Surplus on the 1st April, 1928, was	5,199	3	8½
and was reduced to	3,252	1	8
on the 31st March, 1929.			
The Reserve Fund stood at	10,304	10	9
The Public Debt remained the same as at 31st March, 1928, viz :	14,100	0	0
The amounts to the credit of the various Sinking Funds were as follows :—			
Water Works Loan, 1883	1,116	12	6
Public Works Loan, 1893	7,101	8	3
Wireless Loan, 1925	642	14	6
Total	£8,860	15	3

III.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculturally, the Island of Montserrat, while making rapid progress during 1928, received an unfortunate setback by the hurricane on September 12th. This not only brought all agricultural activities to a standstill, but converted the work of progression into one of reconstruction of the Island's commerce and agriculture generally. However, the work of rehabilitation was so vigorously pursued that, towards the end of the year, signs of rapid recovery to a more normal state were much in evidence. Cotton, the Island's chief industry, proved again the mainstay. By dint of early methods the cotton crop suffered only moderate damage. From 2,600 acres, the very satisfactory output of 600,000 lbs. lint was produced. The percentage of Stain Cotton showed the satisfactorily low figure of only 5%, a clear indication that the once dreaded Pink Boll Worm menace is now well under control. The price realized on the Cotton Crop was an improvement on previous years. Peasants enjoyed great prosperity by the ready sale of their cotton crop in the form of seed cotton at *5d.* per lb., while large growers found a better market in Manchester. The Lime Industry sustained a permanent setback by the storm, and just at the time when prices for Lime Products were in the ascendancy, and young lime fields in vigorous condition. No time has, however, been lost in replanting increased areas in this crop, and the propitious weather experienced has influenced a good start.

The Sugar, Papain, and Bay Leaf Industries were not increased during the current year on account of indifferent market prices of these commodities.

The establishment of a Peasants' Bureau took place during the year. This organization propagates all types of economic plants for the peasants, and was of untold benefit in the reconstruction of peasants' fruit groves so badly destroyed by the September storm. The marketing of peasants' vegetables, especially tomatoes for the Canadian market, was inaugurated by this Bureau.

1928 proved a year of high rainfall, and September 12th will long be remembered as the day on which the island was visited by one of the severest hurricanes in its history.

Commercially, the trade of the Island still continues to show a further upward trend. The value of the Island's exports increased from £68,753 in the previous record year to £88,026 during the year under review.

The principal Exports of the Island's Chief and Minor Industries for the past five years are as follows :—

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
Cotton Lint	*Quantity.* 477,775 lb. *Value.* £47,183	*Quantity.* 342,863 lb. *Value.* £38,913	*Quantity.* 377,294 lb. *Value.* £39,097	*Quantity.* 665,113 lb. *Value.* £50,526	*Quantity.* 863,028 lb. *Value.* £74,637
Onions	*Quantity.* 110,286 lb. *Value.* £1,118	*Quantity.* 158,739 lb. *Value.* £1,436	*Quantity.* 304,562 lb. *Value.* £2,435	*Quantity.* 447,602 lb. *Value.* £6,663	*Quantity.* 204,016 lb. *Value.* £1,478
Lime Products Raw Juice	*Quantity.* 41,216 gal. *Value.* £3,118	*Quantity.* 7,057 gal. *Value.* £565	*Quantity.* 34,594 gal. *Value.* £2,086	*Quantity.* 34,047 gal. *Value.* £1,720	*Quantity.* 33,906 gal. *Value.* £1,803
Concentrated Lime Juice	—	—	—	—	*Quantity.* 1,485 gal. *Value.* £326

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
Green Limes	—	—	—	—	*Quantity.* 56 brls. *Value.* £28
Ecuelled and Distilled Lime Oil.	—	—	—	—	*Quantity.* 1,283 lb. *Value.* £1,669
Papain	*Quantity.* 599 lb. *Value.* £424	*Quantity.* 541 lb. *Value.* £379	*Quantity.* 1,696 lb. *Value.* £1,106	*Quantity.* 1,243 lb. *Value.* £877	*Quantity.* 550 lb. *Value.* £377
Sugar	*Quantity.* 26 tons *Value.* £513	*Quantity.* 1½ tons *Value.* £15	*Quantity.* 47,960 lb. *Value.* £411	*Quantity.* 61½ tons *Value.* £1,222	*Quantity.* 11 tons *Value.* £168
Bay Oil	*Quantity.* 141 gals. *Value.* £705	*Quantity.* 123 gals. *Value.* £615	*Quantity.* 104 gals. *Value.* £325	*Quantity.* 67 gals. *Value.* £53	*Quantity.* 145 gals. *Value.* £165
Tomatoes	—	—	—	—	*Quantity.* 213 crates. *Value.* £53

COMPARATIVE RETURN OF

Articles.	1926.				1927.
	Canada.	*U.S.A.*	*U.K.*	*All Places.*	*Canada.*
	Value. £	Value. £	Value. £	Value. £	Value. £
Butter	625	63		721	632
Oleo-Margarine		176		515	4
Dried Fish	2,028			2,383	1,887
Herrings	491			513	339
Flour	8,559	26	3	8,741	7,400
Sugar	674	3		1,766	765
Pork	396	349		878	492
Rice	35	5	45	757	42
Corn-meal	55	89		275	11
W Pine and Spruce	667			975	668
Pitch Pine	21	338		2,127	5
Boots and Shoes	349	461	297	1,105	215
Motor Cars	167	1,229		1,396	346
C.P. Goods	105	4,563	3,406	8,399	210
Machinery	11	27	653	1,036	
Iron Goods	222	830	1,950	2,716	20
Chemicals	1		643	915	
Soap (common)	10	4	631	700	190
Sp. Liquors			784	2,319	
Other Goods				26,912	
				65,149	

COMPARATIVE RETURN OF

Articles.	1926.								1927.	
	Canada.		*U.S.A.*		*U.K.*		*All Places.*		*Canada.*	
		£		£		£		£		£
Cotton Lint (lb.)					509,667	51,231	509,667	51,231		
Cotton Seed (cwt.)							4,987	3,180		
Cotton Seed Meal (bags)							51	403		
Cotton Seed Oil (gal)							6,011	645		
Bay Oil (gal)					152	309	160	325		
Lime Juice (gal)					31,184	2,085	31,184	2,085	11,619	862
Lime Citrate (lb.)					32	32	32	32		
Onions (lb.)	3,800	26	48,250	403			300,852	2,435		
Tobacco (lb.)			1,696	1,106	1,080	21	1,342	34		
Papaine (lb.)							1,696	1,106		
Sugar (cwt.)	9,400	375			120	5	8,560	411	300	390
Cattle (No.)							73	359		
Other Exports		19				80		1,109		111
		420		1,509		53,763		63,355		1,363

IMPORTS 1926–27–28.

1927.			1928.			
U.S.A.	*U.K.*	*All Places.*	*Canada.*	*U.S.A.*	*U.K.*	*All Places.*
Value. £	Value. £	Value. £	Value. £	Value. £	Value. £	Value. £
22	4	700	621	14	33	729
79	67	436	13	2	125	490
		2,421	2,722	1		2,744
		528	400			422
		7,440	9,435	5		9,440
		2,402	874	17		4,131
244	3	905	194	453		787
22		669	32	2		919
71		184	24	136		400
		1,075	1,925	1		2,033
222		1,543	184	1,083		2,785
458	633	1,567	319	388	443	1,154
794		1,345		718		718
2,938	3,330	7,551	17	3,535	2,891	7,937
209	1,184	2,177	16	73	394	510
179	1,285	2,515	627	26	171	991
2	12	24	9	40	13	66
43	466	681	64	1	512	645
	888	2,536	1		897	2,556
		26,703	5,087	5,481	10,358	26,977
		63,402				66,434

EXPORTS FOR 1926–27–28.

1927.						1928.							
U.S.A.		*U.K.*		*All Places.*		*Canada.*		*U.S.A.*		*U.K.*		*All Places.*	
	£		£		£		£		£		£		£
		665,133	50,526	665,133	50,526			24,496	2,000	827,965	71,864	863,025	74,637
				740	2,513					2,780	582	3,960	926
				72	534							1,008	579
				6,902	1,439							6,484	1,446
1	3	56	30	67	50					1,100	145	1,100	156
		21,551	800	33,697	1,690	16,901	1,164	1,135	200	15,328	560	35,391	2,123
238,604	5,009			447,602	6,662			30,470	235			204,016	1,478
		500	17	500	17							224	25
1,141	808	61	30	1,242	858			550	377			550	377
		900	750	1,220	1,224							220	165
				111	795							243	1,529
	29		434		2,445		217		1,700		323		3,158
	5,849		52,587		68,753		1,381		4,512		73,474		86,599

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The Imports for 1928 amounted to £66,434 and the Exports to £86,599 showing an increase of Exports over Imports of £20,165.

The Imports showed an increase of £3,032 over 1927. This was due to larger imports during the latter part of the year of sugar, lumber, etc., consequent on the hurricane of September last.

The exports showed an increase of £17,846 over 1927, and was due to the large export of 863,025 lbs. of Sea Island Cotton Lint valued at £74,637, which is the largest quantity exported on record. The cotton was assessed at a conservative value of 1*s.* 10*d.* per lb., but from information received, it is understood that some of the cotton sold as high as 2*s.* 2¾*d.* per lb.

The Comparative Statements of Imports and Exports for the last three years show the trend of trade in the principal imports and exports.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Regular steamship services are fortnightly by the Canadian National Steamships to the neighbouring English Islands, British Guiana, and Canada. Sailing sloops trade to the nearest sister-Presidencies.

A wireless Station operated by the Pacific Cable Board connects with all the other West Indian Islands, Barbados being the distributing centre.

The telephone installation is a double wire metallic circuit system.

The roads are kept in good repair. They are liable to heavy wash in the rainy season, which causes the cost of their repair to be heavy. The configuration of the land is not suitable to heavy transport service other than on the main roads, and produce from the far districts is conveyed to Town y boat and pack transport. No railways exist.

The inland postal service was re-organised in 1926, when three Sub-Post Offices were established in the country districts.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

A Magistrate's Court is held twice a week, and the Supreme Court of the Colony decides Appeals from this Court and tries cases of serious crime three times a year. A Court of Summary Jurisdiction is appointed periodically. During the year, no unusual cases of crime occurred, and general peace and good order were maintained.

A Division of the Leeward Islands Police is stationed in the Presidency, under a Sub-Inspector of Police. During the year the health of the men was good, and the discipline excellent.

Short term prisoners are kept in the local jail ; sentences of more than six months are served at the Central Prison in Antigua.

The health of the prisoners was good, and no serious breaches of the Prison Regulations were committed.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Owing to the hurricane of September 12th–13th, a heavy demand has been made on the Public Works Department.

Reconstruction work on the following services and public buildings is in course of being carried out.

The Town water supply was very badly damaged at its source, and the supply partially cut off for ten days. The Main Town Reservoir was badly damaged, making it impossible to use the same for storage of water. The water supplies at the North, Cork Hill, and Gages were all badly damaged.

Nearly all Government buildings, with the exception of the Treasury and Post Office, were considerably damaged. Houston Bridge, connecting the North and South of the Island was swept away.

Two-thirds of the Iron Jetty was carried out to sea with both cranes.

Total damage to Government Buildings and Services, as assessed by the Government Assessment Committee, amounted to £5,740 plus £2,250 for the replacement of that portion of the Jetty which was carried away.

Damage to Roads caused by the hurricane amounted to £1,800.

Steady progress is being made in the construction work.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

Previous to the hurricane, the general health conditions were good. The Town of Plymouth was kept in a sanitary state.

After the hurricane, during the last quarter of 1928, there were two epidemics in the Island, viz: Influenza and Gastro-enteritis. The latter occurred chiefly in infants, and caused fifty deaths. Besides these, there were more cases than usual of Lobar Pneumonia, Dysentery, and Typhoid Fever. The still births increased to 25 in 1928, as compared with 18 in 1927. The death rate for the year 1928 was much augmented, there being 296 deaths as compared with 181 in 1927.

IX.—EDUCATION.

All education was, until the opening of the Grammar School in January, 1928, only elementary. The Grammar School now provides secondary education at a very moderate cost. On account of the hurricane, it is being carried on in a temporary building until a new school house can be erected.

The Elementary Schools are undertaken by the Religious Denominations with Grants-in-aid from the Government. There are now annually two scholarships for boys and one for girls in the Elementary Schools for free education in the Grammar School and Girls' School.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

The soil of the Island is suited to Sea Island Cotton production, giving excellent yields with average manuring.

There are no Crown lands, the various hills and peaks being appurtenant to the Estates lying along their slopes.

Uncultivated land is not sufficiently extensive and accessible to merit further development.

XI.—LABOUR.

Labour is sometimes scarce, the peasants being attracted to other places where wages are higher, although living conditions are easier for the labourer in the island.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

FINANCE.

The financial condition of the Presidency of the Virgin Islands on the 31st March, 1929, may be regarded as satisfactory, as the following figures will show :—

Reserve.

The Reserve funds invested in England with the Crown Agents remained on the 31st March, 1929, at £10,090 10*s.* 10*d.*

Surplus.	£	s.	d.
The year opened with a surplus of	4,560	5	4
The revenue in 1928–29 amounted to	9,120	0	7
	13,680	5	11
The expenditure amounted to	9,486	18	4
Leaving a surplus on 31st March, 1929	4,193	7	7

The Revenue of the Presidency amounted to £9,120 0*s.* 7*d.* although this was £612 11*s.* 8*d.* less than the previous year, it was £937 0*s.* 7*d.* more than the estimated figure for 1928–29.

Expenditure exceeded the Estimates by the sum of £1,979 18*s.* 4*d.*, due to unexpected payments being made for re-roofing Government buildings, purchase of a new motor launch, etc., etc.

Loan and Public Debt.—No loan was raised and the Presidency has no public debt.

Savings Bank.—Savings Bank deposits at 31st March amounted to £821 11*s.* 2*d.* Interest at the rate of 2½ per cent. is paid on deposits.

Imports.—The value of the Imports into the Presidency amounted to £29,789, which was £1,139 more than Imports in 1927.

Exports.—The total value of Exports from the Presidency amounted to £11,799.

AGRICULTURAL.—The Experiment Station continues to be a disappointment and an expense. Efforts will now be made to encourage the peasants to take up cotton cultivation again and a few acres will be planted on Station land as soon as seed can be obtained. The revenue derived from sugar, coconuts, ground provision, etc., grown at the Station is steadily decreasing ; this is an unsatisfactory state of affairs and unless some improvement takes place the closing down of the Station must be seriously considered.

The following table shows the revenue derived from the Agricultural Department during the last three years :—

Year.	*Estimated Revenue.*	*Amount Realised.*
	£	£
1926–27	1,110	532
1927–28	800	296
1928–29	420	139
	£2,330	£967

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1926–27	532	1,178
1927–28	296	755
1928–29	139	722
	£967	£2,655

From the foregoing it will be seen that during the past three years the amount collected is £1,363 less than was anticipated and the Agricultural Department has actually cost the Presidency £1,688 during this period.

Peasants' Agricultural Bank.—This private concern continues to flourish and is a great boon to the peasant population.

EDUCATION.

Primary education is free and compulsory. There are ten elementary schools in the Presidency and they are all under the Denominational System. Grants-in-aid are made to these schools mainly for the payment of teachers' salaries and equipment. The total expenditure during the year was £575. The attendance generally has continued to improve, reaching a total enrolment of 1,300 during the year from 1,100 in 1924. The number of children of school age is approximately 1,600. There is no secondary school in the Presidency.

There were five prosecutions during the year under the Education Act 8 of 1925, with fines totalling £1 4*s*. 0*d*.

The schools were regularly visited by the Officer of the Department, and the usual annual examination was conducted by the Federal Inspector of Schools during May.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health of the Presidency was fair during the year. Following the gale of September, there was a general increase of sickness resulting in a few deaths principally amongst the aged and infirm.

The campaign against yaws continues with encouraging results. Vaccination also received particular attention. The Tortola Cottage Hospital increases in popularity ; 107 patients were admitted during the year and 416 out-patients received treatment.

The sanitation of the Presidency is good.

AGRICULTURE.

Normal conditions prevailed in the Virgin Islands until September when a gale of moderate intensity caused considerable damage to all growing crops. Abundant rains have, however, worked wonders and the position is now satisfactory. There is great need in the Presidency for a staple crop to replace cotton cultivation. At one time it was hoped that tobacco would take its place but experience has shown that tobacco is not a peasant's crop, consequently although its cultivation continues the output is considerably reduced.

GENERAL.

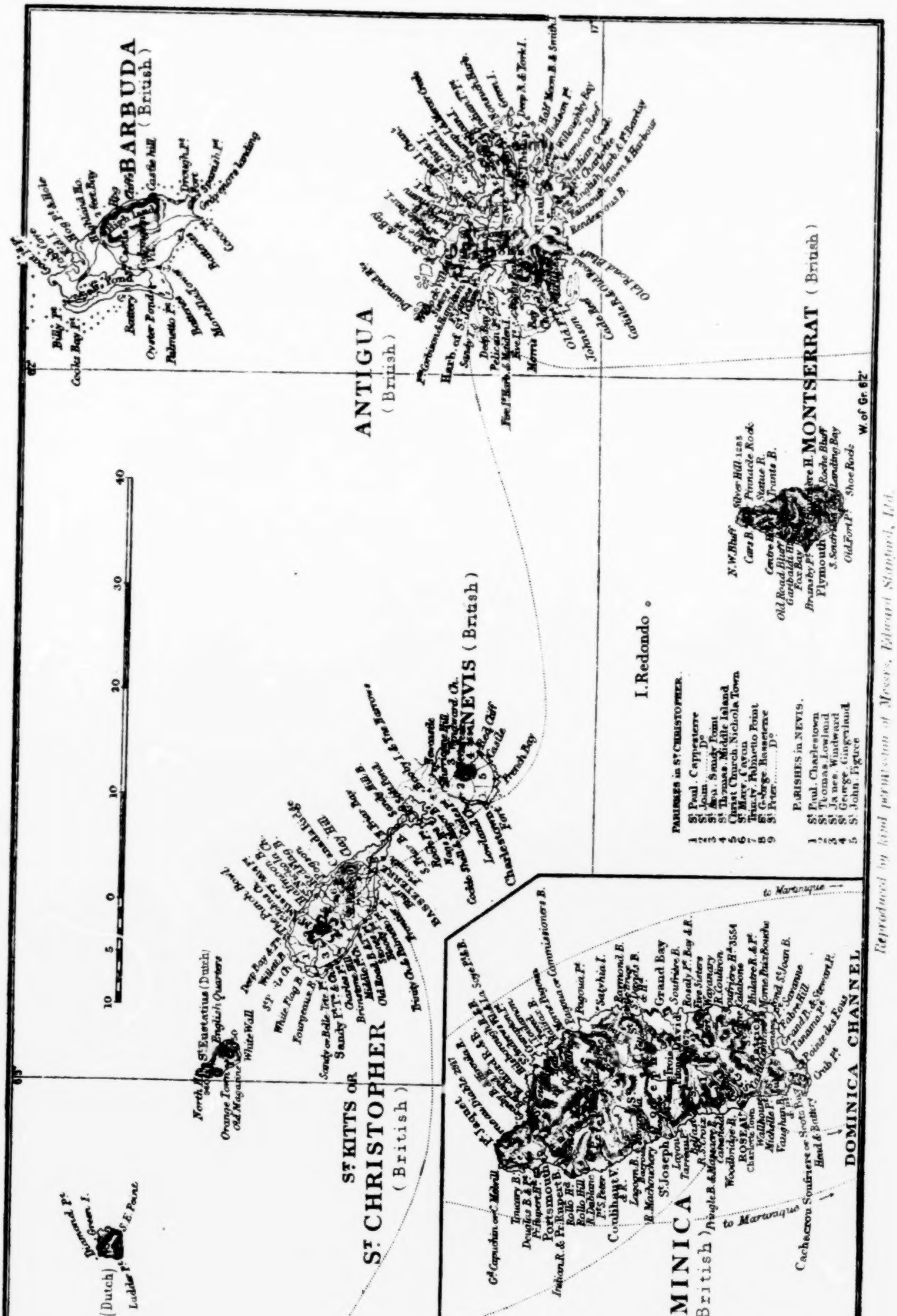
The normal prosperity of the Presidency was somewhat marred by a hurricane of moderate intensity that swept over the islands on the 12th and 13th September. Fortunately the full force of the wind was not felt. There were no deaths and only minor damage was done to house property. The growing crops suffered severely but replanting was carried out immediately and abundant rains have had a beneficial effect.

Roads, bridges and jetties, etc., were considerably damaged by high seas and heavy rains. The tobacco barns at the Experiment Station were totally destroyed and some cured tobacco spoiled.

A shark fishing company, known as the Tortola Fisheries Inc., started operations during the year with promising results.

It is regrettable that this industry as well as the growing of cigar tobacco for export should be in the hands of foreigners. The apathy of the Virgin Islanders is shown up very clearly by the industry and enterprise of the two concerns.

Regular communication with St. Thomas is maintained by the Government motor launch which carries mails and passengers. A new launch of smaller tonnage and higher speed has been ordered for the service and it is hoped she will prove more efficient in every way.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LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1929-30.

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS COLONY.

GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY.

The Colony of the Leeward Islands, with a total area of 704 square miles, consists of a number of islands belonging partly to the chain of the Lesser Antilles, of which the group forms the northern end, and partly (the Virgin Islands group) to the eastern extremity of the Greater Antilles. The islands of Antigua, Barbuda, St. Christopher (St. Kitts), Nevis, and Montserrat form a fairly compact group between the 61st and 63rd degrees of West longitude and around the 17th degree of North latitude : but Dominica lies about 100 miles to the south, separated by the French island of Guadeloupe from the rest of the Colony, while Anguilla, Sombrero, and still more the Virgin group (Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, and many small islands) lie apart to the north and north-west.

St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat, and Dominica form part of the volcanic chain of the Lesser Antilles, whilst Antigua and Barbuda form part of the eastern sedimentary series of the same chain.

Politically, the Colony is divided into five Presidencies, Antigua (with Barbuda and Redonda), St. Christopher and Nevis (with Anguilla), Dominica, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands. These have been united and separated at various times in their history, and were finally federated in 1871 by Imperial Act 34 and 35 Vict., cap. 107. Sombrero was added to the Colony (being attached to the Virgin Islands Presidency) by Order in Council under the Colonial Boundaries Act on the 10th August, 1904.

St. Kitts was the first island of the Lesser Antilles to be colonized from Europe, Sir Thomas Warner and others having arrived there from England in 1623 : but Antigua is now the headquarters of the Colony.

LANGUAGES.

English is the language of all the islands except Dominica, where, however, it is gradually superseding the French patois commonly spoken.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES AND CURRENCY.

Weights, measures, and currency are generally the same as in England.

The Colony possesses Federal Executive and Legislative Councils, the members of the former, and the official members (ten in number) of the latter being appointed, while the unofficial members of the Legislative Council (three each from Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis, two from Dominica, and one from Montserrat) are elected from amongst the nominated unofficial members of the legislatures of their respective Presidencies There is also a nominated unofficial member for the Virgin Islands on the General Legislative Council.

Each Presidency has an Executive and a Legislative Council, with the exception of the Virgin Islands, which has an Executive Council only, Presidential Ordinances being made by the Governor of the Colony. The Presidential Councils have concurrent legislative powers with the General Legislative Council on specified subjects so far as their Ordinances are not repugnant to the Acts of the latter, and legislative power with regard to the residue of unspecified subjects.

I.—GENERAL.

The depression of the sugar industry during 1929 affected Antigua and St. Kitts and, indirectly, their dependencies; but Montserrat regained prosperity, despite the hurricane of 1928, through sea island cotton, and Dominica, through the profits made on the lime crop, began to emerge from a long period of depression.

An event of considerable importance to the Colony was the creation by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, by virtue of the Colonial Development Act, 1929, (which received the Royal Assent on the 26th of July, 1930) of the Colonial Development Fund for the purpose of aiding and developing agriculture and industry in overseas Dependencies and thereby promoting commerce with, or industry in, the United Kingdom.

Several applications for assistance from the Fund were forwarded to the Secretary of State for the consideration of the Colonial Development Advisory Committee, and up to the end of March, 1930, the following assistance was approved for the undermentioned schemes :—

Scheme.	*Assistance.* *Amount.* £	 *Nature.*
ANTIGUA.		
Construction of concrete houses for the peasantry.	13,000	Free Grant £6,500. Loan £6,500—free of interest for 5 years, thereafter at 5 per cent. repayable within 25 years.
Laying concrete drains in villages ...	6,000	Free Grant.
Removal of leper home to better site ...	2,000*	Free Grant.
Inauguration of sanitary campaign ...	10,000	Free Grant.

Scheme.	Assistance.	
	Amount.	Native.
	£	
Dominica.		
Provision of additional wards at Roseau Hospital, etc.	1,500	Free Grant.
Additional ward at Portsmouth Hospital.	750	Free Grant.
Concrete drains for Roseau and villages	3,500	Free Grant.
Montserrat.		
Construction of concrete houses for peasants.	5,000	Loan free of interest for 10 years, thereafter at 5 per cent. repayable by £250 per annum beginning with the sixth year.
St. Kitts-Nevis.		
Visit of medical expert to enquire into medical and sanitary conditions.	250	Free Grant.
Construction of concrete houses for peasants.	13,000	Free Grant £6,500. Loan £6,500 free of interest for 5 years thereafter at 5 per cent. Repayable within 25 years.
Visit of consulting engineer to advise on public health works, etc.	525	Free Grant.

* Subsequently increased to £3,000.

II.—FINANCE.

The following table shows the Revenue and Expenditure of the various Presidencies of the Colony for the five financial years 1925-26 to 1929-30.

Revenue.

	1925–26.	1926–27.	1927–28.	1928–29.	1929–30.
	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	81,671	81,283	93,436	97,903	84,236
St. Kitts-Nevis	90,405	88,103	94,161	101,567	102,013
Dominica*	61,623	87,833	68,815	92,445	81,674
Montserrat	21,371	22,688	22,426	30,330	27,389
Virgin Islands	12,532	9,486	9,734	9,120	6,787
	267,602	289,393	288,572	331,365	302,099

* Including Imperial Grants.

Expenditure.

	1925–26.	1926–27.	1927–28.	1928–29.	1929–30.
	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	79,004	80,736	83,149	101,331	94,146
St. Kitts-Nevis	88,888	86,418	93,113	104,692	100,365
Dominica	62,511	62,395	80,715	80,517	92,426
Monserrat	21,039	21,140	19,986	32,278	31,007
Virgin Islands	17,419	8,348	7,240	9,487	6,871
	268,861	259,037	284,203	328,305	324,815

III.—PRODUCTION.

The principal exports of the Colony during the year were as follows :—

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Montserrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*
Sugar (tons)	9,700	13,724	Nil.	Nil.	—
Molasses (gal.) ...	270,000	536,608	—	—	—
Cotton (lb.)	61,540	756,115	Nil.	616,389	—
Cotton Seed Oil (gal.)	—	5,008	—	5,380	—
Lime Juice (raw-gal.)	1,120	—	475,102	—	—
Lime Juice (concentd-gal.)	1,440	—	35,446	—	—
Coconuts	Nil.	1,668	—	—	—
Salt	Nil.	1,276 tons	Nil.	—	13 brls.
Fresh Limes (brls.) ...	190	Nil.	16,658	—	—
Essential Oil — Bay (lb.).	—	—	18,349	—	—
Lime, distilled (lb.) ...	—	Nil.	30,804	—	—
In solution in lime-juice (lb.).	—	—	12,515	—	—
Otto of Limes (Ecuelled Oil) (lb.).	—	Nil.	5,256	—	—
Mangoes (crates) ...	—	—	5,309	—	—
Tobacco (lb.)	—	—	—	—	30,101
Cigars (lb.)	—	—	—	—	56,798
Cattle (head) ...	75	—	—	161	1,047
Goats (head)	—	—	—	—	2,871
Charcoal (£)	—	—	—	—	1,748
Cocoa, raw (lb.) ...	—	—	275,145	—	—
Onions	£148	—	—	170,818 lb.	—

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The greater part of the products of the Colony (principally sugar and cotton) are shipped to England, Canada coming next as a purchaser, and the United States of America third, the exports to the last country being almost entirely limes and lime products.

As regards countries which are sources of imports, the United Kingdom also has first place, and the United States and Canada are about equal.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

St. Kitts, Nevis, Antigua, Montserrat, and Dominica are ports of call for the fortnightly " Lady Boats " of the Canadian National Steamships. No other lines call regularly at Nevis or Montserrat, but the other islands are visited at intervals of two or three weeks by steamers of the Furness Bermuda, Ocean Dominion, and Western Ocean lines, and by cargo steamers of the Canadian National Steamships. No steamships call at the Virgin Islands, Anguilla, or Barbuda. Steamers of the Harrison Line go to and from England at irregular intervals.

St. John's, Antigua, is an airport.

Sailing vessels go from one island to another, but are generally laid up during the hurricane season (July-October).

Mails to and from Europe go via New York or Barbados, save when there is a direct steamer to or from England. Parcels are only dealt with at the shipping port.

Imperial Postal Orders are issued and paid in the Colony and Money Orders are exchanged direct with Great Britain, Canada, the United States, and the British West Indies.

Telegraphic communication is maintained by means of wireless and cable. There are wireless stations at Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica which are owned by Imperial and International Communications Ltd., and one in Montserrat owned by the Presidency.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The supreme court of the Leeward Islands consists of a Chief Justice resident in Antigua, and two Puisne Judges, one in Dominica and the other in St. Kitts. Circuit Courts are held in Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica three times a year (January, May, and October), in Nevis and Montserrat three times a year (March, June, and November), and in the Virgin Islands annually in April. Anguilla forms a Circuit but the Court is not held there, but in St. Kitts. Duly qualified barristers are entitled to practise as solicitors in the Colony.

The Colony is divided into twelve magisterial districts, two in Antigua, two in St. Kitts, three in Dominica, and one each in Nevis, Montserrat, the Virgin Islands, Anguilla, and Barbuda.

The Police Force of the Colony is under a Chief Inspector resident at Antigua. Inspectors are stationed at Dominica and St. Kitts, and Sub-Inspectors at Dominica, Antigua, and Montserrat.

A certain amount of smuggling is carried on in Dominica, but otherwise there is but little crime in the Colony.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

There is no Federal Department of Public Works. The maintenance of roads is more difficult in Dominica, owing to excessive rainfall, than in the other Presidencies.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Colony as a whole is distinctly healthy, though malaria is common in Dominica, Nevis, and (to some extent) in Antigua.

Dominica has an abundant supply of good water, and there is also a good supply in St. Kitts and Montserrat, but the flukes of Bilharzia occur in the streams of St. Kitts and occasionally Antigua.

Infantile mortality is high in all the Presidencies, due chiefly to improper feeding and insanitary conditions, but increased efforts towards improvement are now being made.

Venereal diseases are common, especially in St. Kitts.

There was an epidemic of malaria in Nevis during the year, and of a streptococcal disease in St. Kitts.

The population of the Colony as estimated on the 31st December, 1929, is as follows :—

Antigua and Barbuda	**29,648 = 175**	**per sq. mile**
St. Kitts and Nevis	**30,571 = 259**	,, ,,
Anguilla	**4,794 = 141**	,, ,,
Dominica	**41,482 = 136**	,, ,,
Montserrat	**11,954 = 368**	,, ,,
Virgin Islands	**5,126 = 102**	,, ,,
	123,575 = 175	,, ,,

Population is densest in Montserrat and most sparse in the Virgin Islands, where numerous waterless islets are uninhabited.

The birth and death rates per 1,000 of the census population, 1921, are as follows :—

	Birth Rate.	*Death Rate.*
Antigua	35.93	22.55
Barbuda	32.12	12.18
St. Kitts	45.5	40.1
Nevis	23.6	19.0
Anguilla	27.9	15.6
Dominica	32.01	26.1
Montserrat	34.9	17.7
Virgin Islands	26.37	10.11

IX.—EDUCATION.

The number of Government and assisted elementary schools in the Colony is 108 (Antigua 22, Barbuda 1, St. Kitts 18, Nevis 10, Anguilla 5, Dominica 29, Montserrat 13, Virgin Islands 10), with a total roll of 25,611 children and an average attendance of 17,082. The schools in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands are still denominational, and there are a few private schools in all the other Presidencies.

The pupil teacher system is in vogue, the period of service being three years. Studentships are awarded to specially seclected candidates at the conclusion of their pupil teachership, for two years, to complete their training as assistant teachers. Those for girls are held at the Spring Gardens Female Teachers Training College, Antigua, and those for boys at the Rawle Training Institute, Codrington College, Barbados.

There is one Department of Education for the Colony, under a Federal Inspector, with Local Inspectors in Antigua, Dominica, and St. Kitts-Nevis, and Presidential Boards of Education with power to make rules.

For secondary education there are Government Grammar Schools for boys in St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat, a private Grammar School for boys in Antigua, private Girls' High Schools in Antigua and St. Kitts, and private mixed schools in Antigua, Nevis, St. Kitts (Convent), and Dominica (Convent).

The standard of the secondary schools is up to that of the Cambridge School Certificate.

There is a training college for female teachers in Antigua (under the control of the Moravian Church).

A scholarship of £200 a year for three years, or five if necessary, is granted annually on the result of the Cambridge School Certificate Examination, and is open to boys and girls under 19 years of age. This scholarship was first won by a girl in 1929.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

Most of the land of the Colony, save in Barbuda and in the interior of Dominica, is privately owned and has been mapped to a greater or less extent.

There are no known deposits of valuable minerals, with the exception of molybdenum at Virgin Gorda and phosphates at Redonda and Sombrero. None of these is now worked.

XI.—LABOUR.

There is no immigrant labour. The Leeward Islands were formerly a source of labour for Cuba, the Dominican Republic, the United States of America, and Curaçao, but such emigration has been largely stopped by quota laws and other restrictions.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The most important Federal Acts passed during the year were those (*a*) to regulate local naturalization, (*b*) to regulate quarantine procedure on the lines adopted by practically all the West Indian Colonies, (*c*) to provide for the legitimization of illegitimate children, (*d*) to regulate emigration of labourers and to provide for the support of emigrants' dependents.

On the 10th September Sir Eustace Fiennes, Bart., retired from the Governorship of the Colony, and was succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel T. R. St. Johnston, C.M.G., formerly Colonial Secretary of the Colony and Administrator of St. Christopher and Nevis.

PRESIDENCY OF ANTIGUA.

GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY.

The Presidency of Antigua consists of the three islands of Antigua, Barbuda, and Redonda, the two former being the emergent portions of a bank which, it has been supposed, represents a former atoll uplifted at the south west (the mountainous district of Antigua, where the igneous base of the bank is exposed), while Redonda is an uninhabited " skerry ", 1,000 ft. in height, rising from deep water between the islands of Montserrat and Nevis.

The island of Antigua was discovered by Columbus in 1493 and named by him after a church in Seville called Sta Maria La Antigua. It was settled by a few English from St. Kitts in 1632.

Antigua is about 107 square miles in area and is roughly oval in shape, the coast being however indented by extensive creeks and bays and outlain by numerous islets and rocks, the largest of these being Guiana Island, about 3 miles long and separated from the main island by a channel only a few yards in width.

There are no forests and no rivers, the island's water supply being derived from reservoirs amongst the south west mountains, and from wells which tap underground streams from the same mountains. Droughts are frequent and, owing to the generally clayey nature of the soil, make the ground so hard that tillage is very difficult while they last.

Barbuda (administered by a Warden) is a flat island chiefly covered by scrub, some 30 miles N.N.E. of Antigua, with which it has communication by small sailing vessels. It has no streams, water being derived from brackish wells. Owing to its lowness, it cannot be seen at any considerable distance from ships, and numerous wrecks have occurred on its shores. A striking feature of Barbuda is the great landlocked lagoon on the western (leeward) side.

Redonda, which was formerly attached to Montserrat, is merely a waterless rock, but at one time over a hundred men were employed there mining phosphates..

The area and population (according to the 1921 Census) of the Presidency is as follows :—

	Area sq. miles.	*Population.*	*Population per sq. mile.*
Antigua	107	28,864	269·76
Barbuda	62	903	14·57
Redonda	1	Nil.	Nil.
Total	170	29,767	174·7

For a later estimate of the population see page 8.

The capital is St. John's, a cathedral city, with a population (1921) of 6,997, on a spacious but shallow harbour on the west side of Antigua in Latitude 17° 6′ N. and Longitude 61° 45′ W.

Parham on the north coast of Antigua ranks as a town, but has diminished in importance to a village. There is only one village (Codrington) on Barbuda.

LANGUAGE, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES, AND CURRENCY.

Only English is spoken, and British weights and measures are used. The currency is sterling, with the addition of $5.00 (£1 0s. 10d.) notes of Barclays Bank and the Royal Bank of Canada.

I.—GENERAL.

Antigua depends entirely on the sugar industry, and very serious depression of this industry took place in 1929. The Royal Commission referred to on page 12, which visited the island in October, advocated *inter alia* the growing of alternative crops by peasant proprietors.

Several schemes for expenditure under the Colonial Development (Imperial) Act have been approved,* but had not passed beyond the preliminary stage by the end of 1929.

In July, 1929, the island saw its first airplane, an amphibian of Pan-American Airways, Inc., on a visit of inspection preliminary to the establishment of a regular service, and on the 22nd September the service (Miami—Havana—Port-au-Prince, Santo Domingo—San. Juan — St. Thomas — Antigua — St. Lucia — Trinidad — Demerara) was opened, Colonel Lindbergh piloting the first plane.

Motor omnibuses also made their first appearance during the year, commencing with a regular service between St. John's and the bathing beach at Fort James.

II.—FINANCE.

Revenue and Expenditure were respectively £84,236 (including £50,825 by Customs Duties and £535 Imperial Grant in respect of hurricane damage in 1928) and £94,146 (including £4,924 for Public Works Extraordinary—£215 of this being raised by subscriptions for repair of the old Dockyard at English Harbour—and £7,836 for Public Debt services). Pensions and gratuities amounted to £4,224 during the year. Both revenue and expenditure show a decrease as compared with 1928-29 amounting to £13,667 and £7,185 respectively. The decrease of local revenue (apart from grants) is £11,356.

The Public Debt on the 31st March, 1930, was £145,000 or £4 13s. 7½d. per head of the population. The amount standing to credit of Sinking Funds was £98,514 6s. 8d.

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* See page 4.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Sugar.—The severe drought which lasted from December, 1927, until the end of February, 1928, together with the drought experienced from the beginning of April until the hurricane of 12th-13th September, caused serious injury to the crop for the year 1929 which was much below the average, only 9,700 tons sugar valued at £126,100 and 270,000 gal. of molasses valued at £1,956 being exported.

The short crop, low prices (£11 16*s.* 4*d.* per ton), and hurricane damage in the 1928 hurricane combined to make 1929 a very bad year for the sugar planter.

The weather experienced in 1929 was much better than in 1928, the total rainfall, 40.78 in., being fairly well distributed and prospects for the 1930 crop were good. Unfortunately, however, world over-production still continued and the position was so grave that a Sugar Commission under the Chairmanship of Lord Olivier visited the island in common with the other West Indian Colonies in October and November. Up to the close of the financial year 1929-30 no effect had been given to the recommendations[*] of the Commission and the outlook continued to be very serious.

The output of sugar in Antigua is closely correlated with weather conditions, the fluctuations in the exports of sugar products being almost entirely due to variations in rainfall during the growing season. This is well illustrated in the following tabular summary showing the rainfall and sugar exports for the years 1924-1929.

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929
Sugar (tons)	7,081	16,530	11,466	22,269	18,906	9,700
V. Pan Molasses (gal.)	359,720	128,000	382,836	715,377	529,800	270,000
Rainfall of preceeding year (inches).	32·41	41·57	30·75	50·20	45·84	33·20

Cotton.—The 1929 crop was reaped from 225 acres planted almost entirely after the hurricane of September, 1928. There was a remarkable freedom from pink boll worm and excellent results were obtained, 61,540 lb. lint valued at £5,641 being exported as compared with 17,700 lb. lint valued at £1,770 exported in 1928. The average return for the whole island was over 270 lb. lint cotton per acre.

The acreage planted for the 1930 crop was approximately 815 acres, but, unfortunately, poor germination, heavy rains in August followed by a spell of dry weather in September, and severe attacks of cotton caterpillar, coinciding with showery weather in November and December considerably reduced the output. Once again there was a remarkable freedom from the pink boll worm.

The cultivation of sea island cotton could be extended considerably in Antigua but for the uncertain and limited market.

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[*] *See* Cmd. 3517.

Limes.—The following lime products were exported in 1929 :—

Quantity.	*Value.*
	£
Green limes, 190 brls.	238
Lime juice (raw), 1,120 gal.	56
Lime juice (Conc.), 1,440 gal.	300

There was a decrease in the value of lime products exported in 1929 due almost entirely to the trees not having recovered from the 1928 hurricane.

Increased interest continues to be shown in lime cultivation, and during the year a large estate in the south west part of the island was acquired for planting under this crop.

Minor agriculture products.—The minor products exported include :—

	£
Onions to the value of	148
Hides and Skins to the value of	133
Horses	40
Cattle	75

Vegetables.—Experiments on the cultivation of vegetables for the Canadian winter market have been continued. Fair prices ($2.00 per 15 lb. crate) have been obtained for tomatoes, and it appears that this crop could be grown in certain districts as a profitable minor industry.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The only industrial establishments in the Presidency are the two sugar factories, the Antigua Sugar Factory at Gunthorpes, near the centre of the island, and the Bendals (Antigua) Sugar Factory at the south west.

The imports during 1929 amounted to £214,978, £76,712 being from the British Isles, £61,130 from the United States of America, and £50,701 from Canada. The largest single item was flour (£20,562—almost entirely from Canada), the next in order being cornmeal (£12,206), cotton goods (£10,817), hardware (£9,574), machinery for sugar manufacture (£9,243), pitch-pine lumber (£8,227), and dried fish (£8,227).

Exports amounted to £139,249, £104,135 being to the British Isles. The value of sugar included in the total was £126,100 (9,700 tons) and of molasses £1,956 (270,000 gal.) as against £245,778 (18,906 tons) and £2,207 (529,800 gal.) respectively in 1928. This decrease was due to hurricane and drought, together with low prices which caused reduction of acreage.

The shipping calling at St. John's in 1929 amounted to 398,554 tons.

Duties on motor spirits, potable spirits, and wine were increased, while those on ships and boats were decreased.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

The following lines of steamers call at Antigua :—Canadian National Steamships (Canada—British Guiana); Furness Withy and Co., Ltd. (Furness Bermuda Line) (New York—Trinidad); Ocean Dominion Steamship Corporation (New York—Trinidad and Canada—British Guiana); Western Ocean Steamship Corporation (New York—Trinidad); Harrison Line (occasionally England —West Indies).

The island is a port of call for the amphibian planes of the Pan American Airways Inc., and the New York, Rio, and Buenos Aires Air Line, Inc.

There are no passenger railways, but the two sugar factories have each a light railway system for the haulage of sugar-cane, and the sugar is conveyed from the Antigua Sugar Factory to the wharf by this means.

There are about 65 miles of main roads in Antigua but none in Barbuda. The most important roads radiate from St. John's, but the villages are connected by a network of by-ways which are generally passable for motor traffic.

There is a General Post Office at St. John's and 14 Sub-Post Offices in the principal villages, including one in Barbuda. Parcels (11,196 received and 2,524 sent in 1929) and money orders are dealt with at St. John's only. Letters are delivered twice daily by postmen in the City District.

There is a wireless telegraph station two miles from St. John's and cable communication also exists.

A Government telephone system has existed for many years in Antigua with a central exchange at St. John's and local exchanges at Parham and All Saints. There are 303 instruments and 550 miles of wire.

There are no inland telegraphs.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The Presidency is the headquarters of the Chief Justice of the Colony and forms one Circuit of the Supreme Court, sessions of which are held three times a year.

There are two Magistrates in Antigua, one for St. John's and one for the country districts (holding courts at Bolans, All Saints, and Parham), while the Warden of Barbuda is Magistrate for that island.

The police are under the command of the Chief Inspector for the Colony, whose headquarters are at St. John's and under whom is a Sub-Inspector permanently stationed in the Presidency. There are police stations at St. John s and the principal villages, and a constable is stationed in Barbuda.

The Antigua Prison is the Central Prison for the Colony to which are sent all offenders sentenced in the other Presidencies to terms of more than twelve months' imprisonment. 152 prisoners (111 males and 41 females) were admitted during 1929, the daily average being 58. The accommodation of the prison is as follows :—

	Males.	*Females.*
Separate cells ...	72 to hold 72	20 to hold 20
Association cells...	7 to hold 35	3 to hold 9
Infirmary ward ...	1 to hold 9	1 to hold 3
	116	32

There is a reformatory known as the St. John's Training School, to which boys from all the Presidencies are sent.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The new Poor House (The Fiennes Institute) was completed. Owing to economic depression, no important works were initiated, but preparations were made for the carrying out of works under the Colonial Development Act.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The island is divided into five Medical Districts, but there is no organized Medical Department. There are nurse-midwives in the villages, under a female Superintendent.

In Barbuda there is a dispenser but no medical officer, the island being occasionally visited by a Medical Officer from Antigua.

Health conditions were fairly good, though whooping-cough and influenza was prevalent during the early part of the year.

Considerable work was done for the prevention of malaria.

The rate of infantile mortality was 151.39, chiefly caused by dysentery.

There is a General Hospital (on the outskirts of St. John's) with a European Matron and Assistant Matron, and also a Leper Home (about to be removed from its present site), a Lunatic Asylum and a Poor House. All these institutions are under the control of one Medical Officer resident near the Hospital.

IX.—EDUCATION.

For secondary education there is a Grammar School (Church of England) for boys, and a Girls' High School under the management of a Board of Trustees. Secondary education is also provided by the Thomas Oliver Robinson Memorial School. All these schools receive grants from the Government.

Antigua Grammar School.—The number of boys at the Antigua Grammar School for the year 1929 were :—Lent Term, 73; Trinity Term, 68; Michaelmas Term, 68. 16 new boys arrived in January, 1929. A Preparatory Department was opened at the beginning of the year. The above figures include the preparatory boys. There are 5 Government and 2 Agricultural Scholars. The staff consists of the Headmaster and four assistants.

In the Cambridge Local Examination held in 1928, 8 boys entered for the School Certificate; 7 passed, of whom 3 obtained honours. (One distinction in Latin.) 4 entered for the Junior; all passed, of whom 2 obtained honours. In December, 1929, 3 sat for the School Certificate and 7 for the Junior.

With the exception of a few cases of whooping-cough and one bad case of fever, the health has been good. Early in 1929 a complete system of water sanitation was installed. The kitchen and dining-room were fitted with fly-proof gauze. The school is indebted to His Excellency Sir Eustace Fiennes and the Legislative Council for their kindness in giving a special grant of £100, which has made these improvements possible. Shooting and military drill have been revived.

In January, 1929, the school had to face a debt of £20 19s. ($100.56). The Tuition Fees (excluding Preparatory), the Government Grant, and the Total Receipts from all sources (including boarding, extra subjects, books and stationery, Preparatory games and extras) are tabulated below :—

	Lent.	*Trinity.*	*Michaelmas.*	*Year.*
	$	$	$	$
Tuition	1118·60	1055·00	999·00	3172·60
Government Grant ...	1206·40	1238·40	1238·40	3683·20
Total Receipts	3347·22	3890·36	3351·46	10589·04

Girls' High School.—The Girls' High School in Antigua was founded in 1886. The school now possesses its own buildings and grounds, most conveniently situated in St. John's near to the Cathedral. There are the Headmistress's house, Assistant Mistresses' Cottage, Dormitories, large schoolrooms with two play-grounds for tennis and other games.

There are 75-85 pupils, mostly day pupils from Antigua, but a number of boarders from the other islands of the Colony and from St. Croix in the Virgin Islands which belong to the United States of America. There is accommodation for 23 boarders.

Besides the two headmistresses there are five assistant mistresses resident at the School.

The syllabus of work is based on the Cambridge Local Examinations, and girls are regularly presented every year for the School Certificate and the Junior Certificate. Very successful results have been attained.

The sports include swimming in the sea, tennis, cricket, net ball, and stool ball.

The school buildings are in the hands of three trustees, and the Board of Management consists of His Grace the Archbishop of the West Indies, five leading gentlemen of the Island, and one lady. The school is assisted by an annual grant from the Government of £200 including five government scholarships.

For primary education in Antigua there are 20 government schools and one grant-aided school. In Barbuda there is a Church of England primary school which receives a Government grant.

Antigua is the headquarters of the Federal Inspector of Schools, who is assisted by a Local Inspector.

The Spring Garden Female Teachers Training College at St. John's is under the management of the Moravian Church.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

The south west of Antigua consists of picturesque mountains (Boggy Peak, 1,330 ft.) clothed with grass and low scrub and diversified by deep and narrow valleys. These mountains are of volcanic origin and supposedly of eocene age. Above this formation in geological order is an outcrop of tuffs and cherts, etc., extending across the island from St. John's Harbour to Willoughby Bay. Next in order is the narrow belt of " Cassada Garden Gravels " (for the most part poor soil), and above this, occupying the north and north-east of the island, the fossiliferous " Antigua Formation " of limestone, the remains of the hypothetical atoll-lagoon. The succession of strata causes the island to be crossed by a series of ridges running W.N.W.-E.S.E., the limestone especially rising in a steep escarpment over the gravel formation.

Barbuda is of recent coral formation, but is probably underlain by the same strata which appears in Antigua.

Barbuda and Redonda belong to the Crown but the area of Crown Land in Antigua is negligible.

Redonda is leased by an English company which formerly extracted phosphates, but there are no other valuable minerals known to exist in the Presidency.

XI.—LABOUR.

Almost the whole population of Antigua is employed, directly or indirectly, in the sugar industry. The daily wages of field labourers average in normal times, from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 4d. for men and 9d. for women. At the sugar factories the wages are from 2s.-3s. a day. The wages of artisans are from 3s. to 4s. 2d. a day, while for domestic servants from 3s.-7s. is paid a week.

The people of Barbuda are largely self-supporting and produce vegetables and stock for export.

There is very little immigration or emigration of labour though formerly large numbers used to emigrate to the United States of America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Curaçao, and other places.

PRESIDENCY OF ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY.

The Presidency of St. Christopher and Nevis ("St. Kitts-Nevis") consists of the two volcanic islands of St. Christopher (St. Kitts) and Nevis, and the limestone island of Anguilla. The capital of the Presidency in Basseterre on St. Kitts, Latitude 17°18′N. and Longitude 62°43′W. The mountain axis of St. Kitts and Nevis runs N.W.-S.E., the former being the more northerly and, except for the small Dutch islands of St. Eustatius and Saba, the northern termination of the partly submerged volcanic mountain range of the Lesser Antilles. Anguilla, running N.E.-S.W., lies some 70 miles N.N.E. of St. Kitts and forms part, with St. Martin and St. Bartholomew, of a separate island-group.

The two volcanic islands are mountainous (Mt. Misery, St. Kitts, 3,711 ft.; Nevis Peak, about 3,596 ft.) and the upper slopes are covered with dense, dank forest, largely of tree ferns and palms. The lowlands are cultivated or in pasture. The highest point of Anguilla is only 213 feet above the sea. The island is undulating. There is much low-growing scrub except where the land is cultivated for cotton or ground provisions.

The areas and population (according to the 1921 Census) of the three islands are as follows :—

	Area. sq. miles.	*Population.*	*Population per square mile.*
St. Kitts	68	22,415	329.6
Nevis	50	11,569	231.4
Anguilla	34	4,230	124.4
	152	38,214	

St. Kitts and Nevis were discovered by Columbus in 1493, and an English settlement (the first in the West Indies) was established on the former in 1623, whence the latter was colonized in 1628. A French settlement was established in St. Kitts about 1625, and, after the two nations had combined to expel the Carib Indians (in 1629), the island was divided, the French taking the two ends, which have since been known as Basseterre and Capisterre. There was frequent warfare between the French and English in St. Kitts and Nevis, the great siege of Brimstone Hill, "The Gibraltar of the West Indies", occurring in 1782; while during the intervals of peace Nevis, owing to its medicinal springs, was the centre of fashion for the British Colonial Empire. The islands have been uninterruptedly British since 1783, the last French invasion occurring, however, in 1805. Two great names are associated with Nevis—Alexander Hamilton, who was born there, and Nelson, whose marriage took place there in 1787.

The date of discovery of Anguilla is uncertain. It has remained British since its colonization about 1650, although invaded at times by the French and Caribs.

LANGUAGE, CURRENCY, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The language of the whole Presidency is English and British currency (with the addition of $5.00 Bank Notes) and British weights and measures are used.

I.—GENERAL.

The year 1929-30 has been marked by a serious depression of the sugar industry, on which St. Kitts, and indirectly Nevis, depends and the Royal Commission referred to on page 12 visited St. Kitts-Nevis.

A number of schemes* have been approved under the Colonial Development Act.

II.—FINANCE.

Revenue and Expenditure for the past five years are given on page 5.

The Public Debt on the 31st March, 1930, was £72,350, composed of the following amounts :—£23,500 under Ordinance No. 4 of 1891 (interest at 4½ per cent. for 47 years from date of issue), £31,850 Inscribed Stock under Ordinance No. 4 of 1893 (interest at 4 per cent. for 50 years from date of issue), £10,000 at 5 per cent. under Ordinance No. 12 of 1927, and £7,000 at 5 per cent. under Ordinance No. 1 of 1929. The total amount paid into Sinking Funds (at 1 per cent.) was £42,643 11s. 11d. on the 31st March, 1930.

Revenue from Customs Duties amounted to £55,597 as against £54,914 in 1928-29.

Investments were realized to the amount of £4,025 19s. 2d.

The most considerable Heads of Expenditure were Hospitals, etc., (£10,125) and Education (£9,117). Pensions amounted to £4,451, and Public Works Extraordinary to £5,864. £1,313 was expended on account of damage caused by the hurricane of 1928.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The principal product of the Presidency is sugar, the cultivation of this crop being confined almost entirely in St. Kitts. Cotton is grown in all three islands, and vegetables in Nevis—chiefly for consumption in St. Kitts. Cotton and coconuts are the principal articles exported from the latter island. The only mineral product is salt, chiefly from Anguilla.

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* See page 4.

The exports for the past five years of the principal products have been as follows :—

	Sugar (including molasses and syrup).	*Cotton.*	*Coconuts.*	*Salt.*
	£	£	£	£
1925	212,315	46,628	12	1,111
1926	215 744	44,169	1,443	700
1927	287,881	35,205	2,441	2,222
1928	268,636	36,038	2,112	2,613
1929	(Figures cannot yet be supplied.)			

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

There are six ports of entry in the Presidency—Basseterre and Sandy Point in St. Kitts, Charlestown in Nevis, and Road, Forest, and Blowing Point in Anguilla; but Basseterre and Charlestown are the only ports at which steamers call.

The number of ships calling at these ports during 1928 has been as follows (figures for 1929 not yet available) :—

	Steamers.	*Sailing Ships.*	*Total.*
Basseterre	198	307	505
Sandy Point	—	16	16
Charlestown	50	16	66
Road, Forest and Blowing Point.	—	594	594
Total	248	933	1,181

There are no railways, with the exception of a light railway in St. Kitts owned by the Sugar Factory and used exclusively for the transport of sugar cane.

On account of the mountainous character of the interior of St. Kitts and Nevis, there is only one main road (round the island) in each.

These main roads are kept in a good state of repair and are used by a considerable volume of motor and other traffic. The main road of Anguilla runs the length of the island. In the volcanic islands the roads cross numerous ravines (" ghauts ") which necessitate sharp curves and gradients. The watercourses at the bottoms (usually dry) are crossed by paved fords or occasionally by bridges.

The main Post Office is at Basseterre, and there are Branch Offices at Charlestown (Nevis), Sandy Point (St. Kitts), and the Valley (Anguilla). There are also 11 Sub-Post Offices.

Ordinary letters are handled at all these offices, but parcels are dealt with only at Basseterre and Charlestown, and registered letters are received (and delivered) only at Basseterre and Charlestown, though they are delivered also at Sandy Point, Cayon, Dieppe Bay, and Old Road.

A wireless telegraph station near Basseterre is the only station in the Presidency.

When weather conditions permit heliograph and flashlight communication is made between St. Kitts and Nevis.

There is a wireless telegraph station in the Dutch portion of St. Martin, a few miles from Anguilla. Basseterre is connected by cable with St. Thomas and Antigua, and thence with the general cable system.

A telephone system has been installed in all three islands.

There are no inland telegraphs.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

A Puisne Judge of the Colony is stationed in the Presidency, which is divided into three Circuits, each island constituting one. Courts are held three times a year in St. Kitts and Nevis, but on account of the difficulties of communication, Circuit Courts are not as a rule held in Anguilla.

The Presidency is divided into four magisterial districts, 2 in St. Kitts and one each in the other islands.

During 1929, there were 28 criminal trials in the Circuit Courts of the Presidency leading to 17 convictions. During the same period 3,445 persons were brought before the magistrates, and 2,392 of these were convicted.

The Police of the Presidency form part of a Federal body, and are commanded by an Inspector and a Sub-Inspector, the latter post having, however, been vacant for a considerable period. There are police stations in the principal villages.

There is one prison, at Basseterre, but prisoners serving sentences of more than one year are transferred to the Central Prison of the Colony in Antigua. The prisoners are employed on gardening and other works.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Owing to economic depression, no very extensive Public Works have been carried out.

A new market has been built in Basseterre, and some improvement of the slum districts has been effected.

The roads have been maintained in good order.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

There is a Department of Public Health, under the Chief Medical Officer of the Presidency, which administered for the year 1929-30 the sums of £1,225 for the sanitation of Basseterre, £600 for the country districts of St. Kitts, and £330 for Nevis.

An outbreak of Streptococcus Haemolyticus occurred in St. Kitts during the latter part of the year.

Sanitary conditions are in need of improvement in the country villages of St. Kitts.

A dental clinic has been established in St. Kitts-Nevis which provides treatment for school children and estate labourers.

IX.—EDUCATION.

For secondary education there are a Grammar School for boys (owned by Government), a High School for girls (subsidized by Government), a Convent High School, and a school in Nevis. The standard aimed at is that of the Cambridge School Certificate.

There are sixteen primary schools in St. Kitts (3 for infants, 2 for boys, 2 for girls, and the rest mixed), ten in Nevis (including 1 for infants, 2 for boys, and 2 for girls), and five in Anguilla. There is an Inspector of Schools for the Presidency stationed in St. Kitts, and an Educational District Officer in each of the other islands.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

There are practically no Crown Lands in the Presidency. St. Kitts is divided up into a limited number of estates, whilst in Nevis and Anguilla there are numbers of peasant proprietors. Only the lowlands and sub-mountain slopes in the volcanic islands are cultivated, the mountain forests being preserved to attract moisture.

The geological structure of St. Kitts and Nevis is similar to that of the other volcanic islands of the Lesser Antilles—strata of andesitic (hypersthene) boulder and volcanic "ash" radiating from the central mountains. In St. Kitts, the soil of the lowlands is loose, sandy, and extremely porous, and the soil in the forest-clad mountains is a stiff reddish clay; in Nevis the soil is everywhere clayey, and is strewn with large boulders such as are not seen in St. Kitts.

Anguilla consists of eocene limestones and recent coral formations.

There are no mineral deposits of value in the Presidency; the salt exported is obtained by evaporation of sea water.

XI.—LABOUR.

Almost the whole population in St. Kitts is employed, directly or indirectly, in the sugar industry. The wages of field labourers average, in normal times, from 1s. 6d. to 2s. a day for men, or from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. a task, and from 10d. to 1s. a day for women.

At the Sugar Factory the wages of unskilled labourers are from 1s. 8d. to 2s. a day, and of skilled labourers from 2s. 6d. to 6s.

The wages of artisans are from 3s. 6d. to 5s. a day, whilst for domestic servants, from £25 to £50 a year is paid for men, and from £12 to £20 a year for women.

In Nevis a great proportion of the population is occupied in the cultivation of provision crops on small holdings, and in Anguilla many of the men are engaged in seafaring.

There has in the past been a large emigration of labourers to Cuba and the Dominican Republic, and there is now a tide of emigration to the oil refineries of Curaçao.

There is no immigration of labour into the Presidency as a whole, but labourers from Nevis come to St. Kitts to work on the sugar estates.

PRESIDENCY OF DOMINICA.

I.—GENERAL.

In the Report for the year 1928 reference was made to the steady progress being made in the agricultural development of the Island as the outcome of Imperial assistance to planters by way of advances from the Loan Board, and by the distribution through the Agricultural Department of economic plants. This assistance has been continued throughout the year under review with satisfactory results. The demand for certain varieties of immune limes and other economic plants exceeded the supply and it was found necessary to establish additional nurseries in various localities in the island for the propagation of budded and immune varieties of citrus plants to meet orders already received and anticipated requirements. On account of the exceptionally long spell of wet weather during the year it was not possible to carry on, on the scale that was desired, the budding of varieties susceptible to disease on stocks which will withstand root disease, but it is hoped during the forthcoming dry season to push on vigorously this very important branch of work to enable large numbers of stocks to be sent out towards the end of 1930.

The most serious damage occasioned by the hurricane of 1928 has been efficiently repaired with the funds placed at the disposal of the local Government from the Imperial Treasury, as far as the assistance would allow, but there is still much to be done to replace and repair damage of public services and roads. In spite of the effects of the hurricane, to meet which partial assistance was given from Imperial funds, the financial position during the year improved, due chiefly to the continued high prices received for limes and lime products, and the deficit of £5,361 carried forward on the 1st April, 1929, was reduced to £3,041 on the 31st March, 1930, even after defraying from Revenue a considerable expenditure on public works damaged or rendered necessary owing to severe rain storms in October last.

The development of a tourist trade in this Island is progressing surely if somewhat slowly, and, with the object of building up this line of business, a Standing Committee has been appointed to arrange for and provide facilities to visitors to the Island.

The export fruit trade of the Island is very promising. By Ordinance No. 4 of 1929 all fruit intended for export to Canada and Bermuda must be packed in and shipped through a Government Fruit Depot in Roseau. This very important machinery has been set up to ensure that only fruit in first class condition, graded and packed to meet the requirements of overseas markets, is exported. Trade Agents have been appointed in Canada and Bermuda through whom all orders for fruit are received, and to whom all shipments are consigned for distribution to dealers.

II.—FINANCE.

The Revenue and Expenditure for the past five years are given on page 5.

The Public Debt on the 31st March, 1930, was £66,000, composed of the following amounts:—£30,000 at 4½ per cent. under Act No. 14 of 1888; £30,000 at 4 per cent. under Act No. 2 of 1894; and £6,000 at 5 per cent. under Ordinance No. 12 of 1928.

The total amount accumulated in the Sinking Funds was £50,871 on the 31st March, 1930.

Revenue from Customs Duties amounted to £38,949 as against £35,518 in 1928-29.

The principal heads of expenditure were Education (£6,243), Pensions (£5,906), and Hospitals, etc. (£5,833). £5,093 was spent on Public Works extraordinary and £9,835 on repair of hurricane damage.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The Lime Industry.—The export figures for limes and lime products during the year 1929 show a falling off of 72,000 barrels when represented as fruit. This decrease is attributable to outbreaks of root disease and the hurricane of 1928.

The Department of Agriculture has laid down large nurseries and is propagating budded and grafted lime trees to replace the seedling line which is rapidly being destroyed by the ravages of root disease. It has been demonstrated that budded limes possess qualities superior to the seedling, among which are immunity to most root troubles and resistance to high winds.

The high prices for lime products which held throughout the year have undoubtedly saved the industry from absolute disaster. The closing prices for December were:—ripe limes 12*s*. per barrel; green limes 20*s*. per barrel; lime oils 55*s*. per lb. for essential oils and 27*s*. per lb. for distilled oils.

The crops shipped since 1920, calculated in barrels of fruit and expressed in round numbers, are recorded below :—

1920	369,000	Prior to appearance of Withertip.
1921	516,000	
1922	400,000	
1923	228,000	
1924	424,000	Includes carry over from 1923.
1925	230,000	
1926	214,000	
1927	210,000	
1928	205,000	
1929	133,000	

50 gallons of concentrated juice represents 75 barrels of lime fruits : 7½ gallons of raw juice represents 1 barrel of lime fruits : 1 ton of citrate of lime is equivalent to 226 barrels of lime fruits : 1 ton of citric acid is equivalent to 400 barrels of lime fruits : 1 gallon of lime juice cordial represents 5½ barrels of lime fruits.

The following table shows the disposal of the crop under various heads :—

Products.	*Calculated in barrels of fruit.*	*Approximate percentage of total crop.*
Concentrated lime juice	53,169	39.87
Raw juice	63,347	47.5
Fresh limes	16,658	12.5
Pickled limes	67	.05
Lime juice cordial ...	110	.08

The exports of products of the lime industry during 1929 are recorded below :—

Product.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
		£
Concentrated lime juice	35,446 gallons.	8,124
Raw lime juice	475,102 ,,	42,007
Lime juice cordial	20 ,,	5
Fresh limes	16,658 barrels.	23,986
Pickled limes	67 ,,	141
Essential oil (distilled)	30,804 lb.	41,526
Otto of limes (handpressed or ecuelled).	5,256 ,,	17,168
		£132,957

Fruit Industry.—As provided by the Fruit Ordinances of 1928 and 1929 a Central Fruit Packing Depôt has been established where the packing, grading, and shipping of fruit is carried out under Government control, and a considerable quantity has been disposed of to Bermuda and Canada since the first shipment in October, 1929.

On the recommendation of the Empire Marketing Board's citrus expert, Professor Clark Powell, the extension of the grapefruit industry has been undertaken; and the planting of other fruit trees is also proceeding, the Agricultural Department having to meet a large demand for plants of budded grapefruit, oranges, lemons, and also grafted mangoes. During the past three years some 20,000 budded or grafted plants have been produced in the Government nurseries specially extended for this purpose, and altogether over 330,000 plants have been distributed free or at a greatly reduced rate, under the scheme advocated by Sir Francis Watts.

Coconuts, Cocoa, Coffee, and Vanilla, exports of which, prior to the hurricane, were all steadily increasing and the areas of which are being rapidly extended, have been reduced in quantity. Much of the reduction, however, is of a temporary nature, the majority of trees which were not destroyed having made wonderful recovery, so that it may be anticipated that the 1930 returns will show a considerable improvement. Coffee and vanilla are being increasingly cultivated by the peasants, and indeed the agricultural community as a whole is now making a concerted effort towards a greater diversification of the industry, with the result that there are distinct indications that the Island is slowly but surely emerging from the period of economic depression through which it has been passing during the past decade.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The principal countries of origin of the goods imported into Dominica are Great Britain, Canada, and the United States of America, in the order given.

Exports are chiefly to Great Britain and the United States of America—lime juice being the most important article in the former case and green limes in the latter.

The bulk of the external trade of the island is concentrated at Roseau, but a certain amount of shipping comes to Portsmouth, in the north, where the best harbour of the island is found.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

The service by the ships of the Canadian National Steamships, Ltd., from and to Canada, has been well maintained each fortnight.

The telephone system has been practically reconstructed throughout the Island.

The coastal service around the Island by auxiliary motor-power schooner, though not altogether satisfactory, has been of help to planters on the windward coast in assisting them to get their produce to Roseau for shipment abroad. Representations have been made for assistance from the Colonial Development Fund for the acquisition of a suitable vessel for a coastal service to replace the subsidized schooner service which is now inadequate.

The inland postal service was well maintained, and in the northern end of the island a subsidized bus service was inaugurated between Portsmouth and Marigot which has been of considerable benefit to the residents in that district.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The Honourable F. B. B. Shand, Crown Attorney and Registrar and Provost Marshal, assumed the duties of Crown Attorney and Magistrate of District " E " on the retirement from the Public Service of the Honourable T. Cools-Lartigue, Magistrate, District " E ", and Mr. A. M. Rock, 1st Clerk, Registrar's Office, was appointed Registrar and Provost Marshal, while Mr. G. F. Richards, Magistrate, District " F " (Windward District), was appointed additional Magistrate for District " E " in conjunction with his own duties as Magistrate, District " F ".

The personnel of the Police and Prison Departments remained unchanged. The efficiency of the Force was maintained.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The following are the more important public works taken in hand and completed, or nearing completion, out of funds provided by the Imperial Government, partly in the form of loans, partly of free grants.

Roads repaired.

Telephone and electric light systems repaired.

New sea wall and repairs to Bay Front, Roseau.

New jetty at Roseau erected to replace two demolished and one seriously damaged (including cranes) in the hurricane, 1928.

River walls repaired and reconstructed.

Water supplies repaired.

Public buildings repaired.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The births registered during the year were 1,328 as against 1,579 in 1928, giving a birth rate of 32.01 per thousand of the population, as against 37.08 per thousand in 1928. The births classified are as follows :—

	1928.		1929.	
	Male.	*Female.*	*Male.*	*Female.*
Legitimate births	331	322	293	321
Illegitimate births	498	428	334	380

These figures speak for themselves. The percentage of legitimate and illegitimate births were 46.23 and 53.77 respectively.

The number of marriages recorded in 1929 was 127, as against 189 in 1928. Of these, 114 were solemnized in the Roman Catholic Church, 3 were solemnized in the Church of England, and 10 were solemnized in the Wesleyan Church.

The deaths registered during 1929 were 507 males and 576 females, as against 490 males and 494 females in 1928.

The death rate per thousand on the estimated population was 26.1, as against 23.06 per thousand in 1928.

The excess of arrivals over departures for the year was 434.

The Public Health Campaign financed from Imperial Funds was brought to a close in December. Considerable improvement has been effected in the sanitation of Roseau and Portsmouth and in the country villages, at some of the larger of which water supplies have been laid or are now in the process of being laid. There is still great room for improvement, however, which is hampered by lack of funds. Assistance has been approved under the Colonial Development Fund for the laying down of concrete drains in Roseau and in some of the more important country villages, and work has been started.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Satisfactory progress has been made in primary and secondary education throughout the year. The primary schools are, however, in a great number of cases seriously overcrowded. Consideration is being given to the provision of a sum on the Annual Estimates for erecting a new school house in Roseau to relieve the congestion in the two larger schools.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

Three surveys for lands and three applications for purchase were recorded during the year.

XI.—LABOUR.

The emigration of labourers to Curaçao, San Domingo, and elsewhere continues, and planters in some districts are experiencing difficulty in obtaining sufficient labour to work the estates.

PRESIDENCY OF MONTSERRAT.

I.—GENERAL.

Sustained effort during the year, both by the Government and people, was made towards rehabilitation after the disastrous hurricane of September, 1928. The replacement of three items of heavy damage, i.e., the shipping wharf, the bridge over Fort Ghaut, and the Hospital was completed. The occasion of His Excellency the Governor's visit in March, 1930, was taken for a formal dedication of the Hospital buildings, though small unfinished details prevented the actual occupation of the new structure until later in 1930.

II.—FINANCE.

Revenue and Expenditure for the past five years are given on page 5.

The Revenue of £27,389 for 1929-30 represented an excess over the Estimates by £5,314, practically every head of receipts showing an increase consequent on abundant cotton crop and the high prices paid locally to the peasantry.

Expenditure however amounted to £31,007 and the surplus of £3,252 at 31st March, 1929, was reduced to a deficit of £366 at the 31st March, 1930. The Reserve Fund then stood at £10,305.

The Public Debt was reduced in the year by £1,100, the Water Works Loan of 1883 having been redeemed.

The amounts to the credit of the Sinking Funds on the 31st March, 1930, were as follows :—

	£	£	s.	d.
Public Works Loan, 1893 ...	10,000	7,478	0	0
Wireless Loan, 1925 ...	3,000	820	10	6
	£13,000	£8,298	10	6

The Government Savings Bank does not appear to be a popular institution, for, notwithstanding the increase of the interest rate to 3 per cent., deposits during the year were reduced by £128 to £658.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The main crop of the Presidency, sea island cotton, was good in return and profitable in price. The exports totalled 616,389 lb. of lint, valued at £58,900. Other cotton products (seed, meal, and oil) were exported to the value of £2,770. Onion shipments totalled 170,818 lb. with a value of £1,104; cattle returned £1,127 for 161 head; 900 crates of tomatoes shipped, mainly to Canada, realized £377; and a number of minor products, including lime juice (£139), bay oil (£219) hides and skins (£230), amounted in value to £1,287.

The total of exports amounted to £65,565, or £21,034 less than in the previous year. This difference was largely due to the fact that a part of the 1927 cotton crop had been shipped in 1928, and an appreciable part of the crop in the year under review was not shipped until after March, 1930, and will thus be included in the next year's report; and there was a falling off of nearly £2,000 in the value of lime juice, the effects of the hurricane of 1928.

The following tabulated schedule of exports is informative.

	1926–27. £	1927–28. £	1928–29. £	1929–30. £
Cotton lint	51,231	50,526	74,637	58,900
Other cotton products ...	4,228	4,486	2,951	2,770
Onions	2,435	6,662	1,478	1,104
Lime products	2,117	1,690	2,123	242
Bay oil	325	50	156	219
Papaine	1,106	858	377	47
Hides and skins	—	—	—	230
Live stock	359	795	1,529	1,335
Tomatoes	—	—	—	377
Other items	1,554	3,686	3,348	341
	£63,355	£68,753	£86,599	£65,565

It will be noted that while the value of cotton lint was fairly well maintained, that of other cotton crop products showed a substantial fall from the average of previous three years. The onion crop was but one-sixth the value of that of two years previously; while the export of all lime products was but an eighth the value of those in three previous years. Papaine has almost disappeared as an export.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The imports for the year amounted to a value of £92,570, and the exports to £65,565, showing a balance of trade of, roughly, twenty-seven thousand pounds (£27,000) against the Presidency. This was due in great measure to the importation of materials in restoration of properties and of goods and stocks in trade to replace those destroyed by the hurricane in late 1928. The imports were £26,136 more than in the previous year, or roughly, the amount of the balance of trade. The exports were about twenty-one thousand pounds (£21,000) less than in the previous year which had been largely augmented from the cotton crop of the year before. Some of the cotton produce of the year under review was held back from shipment.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

The palatial ships of the Canadian National Line call at Montserrat both ways in the voyages between Halifax and British Guiana, and by this line all Canadian and the larger part of other mails are received and despatched.

A wireless station, the property of the Island but operated by the Pacific Cable Board, ensures communication with the neighbouring islands, and so with the world at large.

A telephone system radiates from Plymouth to the more populous districts.

Public roads were badly damaged by the torrential rains attending the recent hurricane, and although much work in repair was done in 1929, larger appropriations for this purpose were made for 1930.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

A Magistrate's Court is held twice a week and the Supreme Court of the Colony decides appeals from this Court and tries cases of serious crime three times a year. A Court of Summary Jurisdiction is appointed periodically. No unusual cases of crime occurred and peace and good order generally were maintained.

A Division of the Leeward Islands Police is stationed in the Presidency, under a sub-inspector. The health of the men is good and the discipline excellent.

Short-term prisoners are kept in the local gaol; sentences of over six months are served in the Central Prison at Antigua. The health of the prisoners was good during the year, and no serious breaches of the Prisons Regulations were committed.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Operations under this Head were entirely confined to completion of replacements necessitated by the hurricane damage.

A new hospital, of concrete block construction, to replace an older wood and stone structure wrecked by the last hurricane was so far completed as to be dedicated during the Governor's short visit in March, 1930; a 63-foot span iron bridge was put in position over Fort Ghaut in the place of one destroyed in 1928; a landing jetty of creosoted piles was constructed in the port of Plymouth in replacement of one hurricane destroyed; and a reinforced concrete covering was put on the reservoir from which Plymouth's water supply is drawn in replacement of the previous galvanized covering.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

Health.—The health of the Island was very good, especially in view of the fact that conditions of life had not quite returned to normal since the disaster of 1928. There were 418 births (34.90 per thousand) and 212 deaths (17.70 per thousand). 271 persons were admitted to the hospital in the year, of whom seven died in the wards. 138 cases were treated at an out-patient clinic for yaws and syphilis.

Meteorological.—The Station is 130 ft. above mean sea-level. The mean barometrical record for the year was 29.972 inches, while the mean temperature was 78.4°F. On the hottest day (September 18th) the thermometer registered 91°F.; the lowest daylight temperature was 66°F. on the 2nd April. The total rainfall was 71.14 inches, February being lowest with 2.27 inches, and August the highest with 8.98 inches. March, November, and December each had a precipitation of just under 9 inches.

IX.—EDUCATION.

There were thirteen elementary schools in the Island, managed by the Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Wesleyan Denominations, and one by the Montserrat Company, Ltd., with the aid of grants from the Government amounting to £1,645. In these schools there were 2,628 pupils enrolled, with an average attendance of 1,893.

The Grammar School established in 1928, though seriously handicapped by inadequacy of quarters since the hurricane of that year, is doing good work. Two boys' scholarships to this school are awarded annually to deserving pupils from the elementary schools.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

The soil of the Island is suited to sea island cotton production and gives excellent yields with average manuring.

There are no Crown lands, the various hills and peaks being attached to the estates lying along their slopes. Uncultivated land is not thought to be sufficiently extensive and accessible to merit further development.

XI.—LABOUR.

Much of the peasant agricultural labour is attracted to neighbouring islands, even as far as Cuba and San Domingo, where though higher rates of wages prevail, the conditions of life are not so favourable as in Montserrat. Many estates are fully worked, while on others large areas are planted in cotton on the share system.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

In September, 1929, Mr. H. H. Hutchings took up duty as Commissioner on transfer from a similar post in the Cayman Islands, vice Major H. W. Peebles, D.S.O., O.B.E., now Administrator of St. Vincent.

Great interest was taken in the possibilities arising out of loans under the Colonial Development Act and application was immediately made for a loan of £5,000 (since approved) to provide small concrete hurricane-proof houses for the peasantry.

PRESIDENCY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

FINANCE.

Revenue and expenditure for the past five years are given on page 5.

The Surplus Funds were £4,109 8*s*. 8*d*., and the Reserve Funds £10,090 10*s*. 10*d*. at the 31st March, 1930.

The value of Imports and Exports during the calendar year amounted to £26,929 and £16,602 respectively.

The Peasants' Agricultural Bank, which is a private concern, proved most useful to the public.

PRODUCTION.

The rainfall for the year was 43.25 inches being 8.57 inches less than the previous year. The distribution was very uneven consequently many crops suffered from drought. An attempt was made to revive the cotton industry and some 400 lb. of cotton seed were distributed; unfortunately the weather conditions were unfavourable and most of the seed failed to germinate. Pink boll worm again made its appearance in the growing cotton. The usual ground provisions were planted. Onion, tomato slips, and sprouted coconuts were distributed to the peasants.

An increased acreage of cigar tobacco was planted by the Spaniards on the leased lands at the Station. These people have proved conclusively that excellent cigar tobacco can be grown in Tortola. Some pipe tobacco was also grown at the Station and the quality favourably reported on.

TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The number of vessels leaving the port was 837, and the number of arrivals 844. These were chiefly sailing boats taking and returning with cargo to and from St. Thomas and St. Croix (parts of the Virgin Islands which belong to the United States of America).

More schooners cleared for St. Croix this year on account of higher prices for cattle in that island.

Five schooners visited the port, these took away and brought back labourers to and from Santo Domingo. The number of emigrants who left the Presidency was 121 and the number who returned 135; the latter included many absent for several years. The returned emigrants were inspected by the Health Officer.

One British man-of-war visited the island and the United States guard-boat of St. Thomas, " The Grebe," visited the island twice during the year.

One registered sloop of 12 tons and three sailing boats were built in the Presidency. The sloop carried 31 labourers to Santo Domingo in December.

There are five private motor boats in the Presidency.

A registered sloop and a sailing boat were lost; the first sank at the entrance of the harbour on a voyage to St. Kitts, and the other foundered returning from St. Thomas. No lives were lost.

The harbour buoys were cleaned and repainted.

The new 40 foot motor launch " Lady Florence ", was landed in Road Harbour in February and immediately put into commission. This launch is a great success and a distinct improvement on the old launch, " St. Ursula ", sold to the Government of St. Kitts—Nevis.

The shark-fishing industry continues and has extended operation to Anegada where it is hoped the inhabitants will show more enterprise than the people of East End. The continuation of this business depends entirely on the interest shown by the local fishermen.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The health of the Presidency during 1929 was uniformly good. There were no wide-spread epidemics or abnormal features of interest.

The rainfall during the rainy season of October to December was the smallest on record for a great many years, and, consequently, the usual incidence of malaria and colds was materially lessened.

The usefulness of the hospital has increased, and 125 patients were admitted during the year, an increase of 18 on the previous year. There were 525 out-patients, an increase of 109. The out-patient attendances are likely to be much diminished in the future as a small fee is now charged per visit.

The yaws campaign was carried on and as a result but few cases now present themselves for treatment.

Vaccination of school children was done in all cases where necessary and 75 children were vaccinated in the last quarter.

The sanitary arrangements of Road Town have been satisfactory.

EDUCATION.

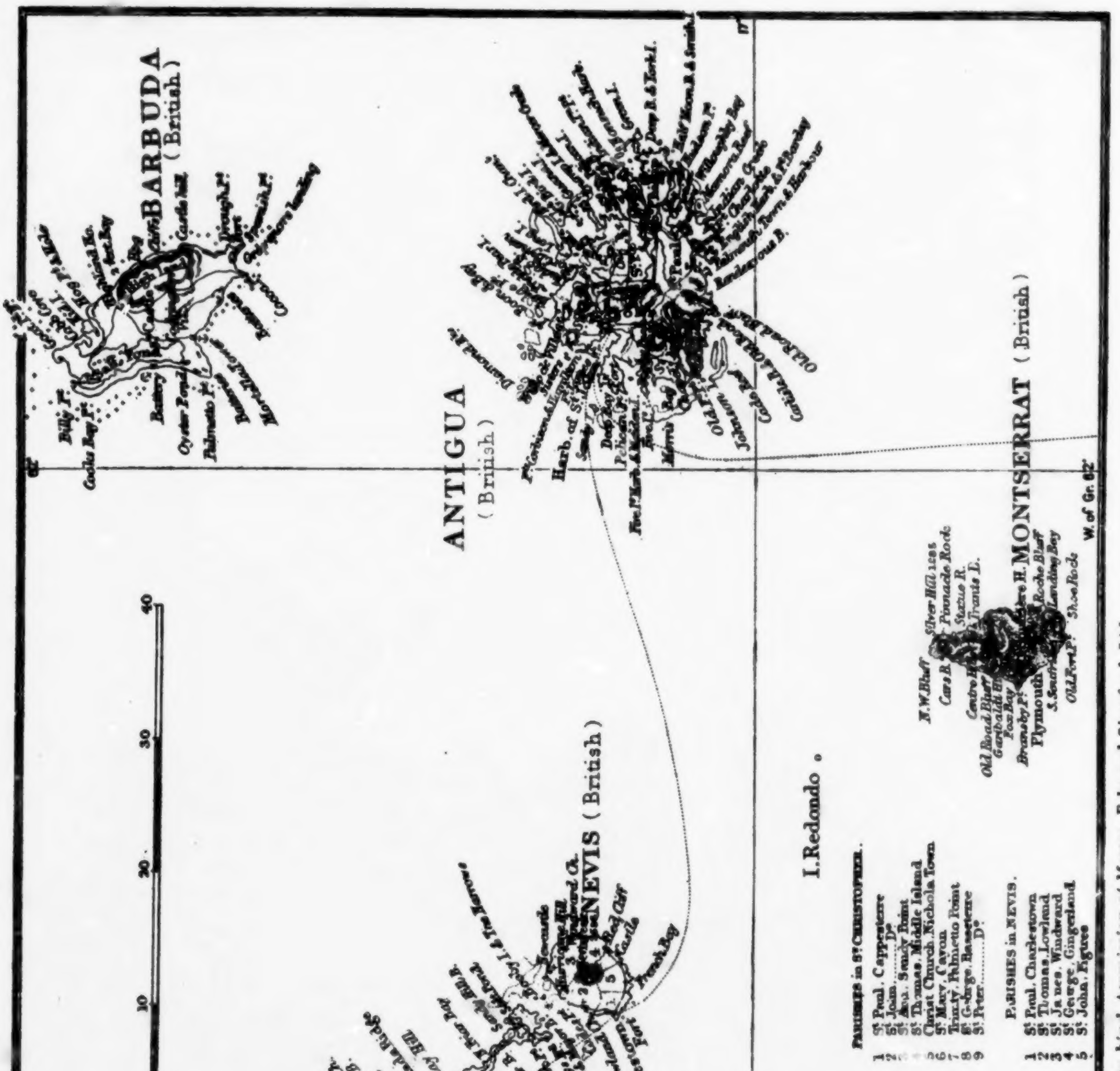
The grant in aid of education was £603 and the total other expenditure was £600 2*s.* 10*d.*

There were no prosecutions for non-attendance during the year.

School gardens were maintained at all schools.

The annual examination of the schools was held in April when the Federal Inspector of Schools visited the Presidency.

The number of children on the school registers was 1,213 and the average attendance was 879. This is a decrease on the previous year.


SABA (Dutch)
St Eustatius (Dutch)
St KITTS or St CHRISTOPHER (British)
NEVIS (British)
ANTIGUA (British)
BARBUDA (British)
I. Redondo
MONTSERRAT (British)
DOMINICA (British)
DOMINICA CHANNEL
to Martinique
PARISHES in St CHRISTOPHER.
1 St Paul, Capesterre
2 St John ... Do
3 St Anne, Sandy Point
4 St Thomas, Middle Island
5 Christ Church, Nichola Town
6 St Mary, Cayon
7 Trinity, Palmetto Point
8 St George, Basseterre
9 St Peter ... Do
PARISHES in NEVIS.
1 St Paul, Charlestown
2 St Thomas, Lowland
3 St James, Windward
4 St George, Gingerland
5 St John, Figtree
Basseterre
Charlestown
Plymouth
Roseau
Portsmouth
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REPORT FOR 1930-31

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LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1930-31.

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS COLONY.

GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY.

The Colony of the Leeward Islands, with a total area of 704 square miles, consists of a number of islands belonging partly to the chain of the Lesser Antilles, of which the group forms the northern end, and partly (the Virgin Islands group) to the eastern extremity of the Greater Antilles. The islands of Antigua, Barbuda, St. Christopher (St. Kitts), Nevis, and Montserrat form a fairly compact group between the 61st and 63rd degrees of West longitude and around the 17th degree of North latitude: but Dominica lies about 100 miles to the south, separated by the French island of Guadeloupe from the rest of the Colony, while Anguilla, Sombrero, and still more the Virgin group (Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, and many small islands) lie apart to the north and north-west.

St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat, and Dominica form part of the volcanic chain of the Lesser Antilles, whilst Antigua and Barbuda form part of the eastern sedimentary series of the same chain.

Politically, the Colony is divided into five Presidencies, Antigua (with Barbuda and Redonda), St. Christopher and Nevis (with Anguilla), Dominica, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands. These have been united and separated at various times in their history, and were finally federated in 1871 by Imperial Act 34 and 35 Vict., cap. 107. Sombrero was added to the Colony (being attached to the Virgin Islands Presidency) by Order in Council under the Colonial Boundaries Act on the 10th August, 1904.

St. Kitts was the first island of the Lesser Antilles to be colonized from Europe, Sir Thomas Warner and others having arrived there from England in 1623: but Antigua is now the headquarters of the Colony.

LANGUAGES.

English is the language of all the islands. In Dominica the French patois is also commonly spoken.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES AND CURRENCY.

Weights, measures, and currency are generally the same as in England.

The Colony possesses Federal Executive and Legislative Councils, the members of the former, and the official members (ten in number) of the latter being appointed, while the unofficial members of the Legislative Council (three each from Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis, two from Dominica, and one from Montserrat) are elected from amongst the nominated unofficial members of the legislatures of their respective Presidencies. There is also a nominated unofficial member for the Virgin Islands on the General Legislative Council.

Each Presidency has an Executive and a Legislative Council, with the exception of the Virgin Islands, which has an Executive Council only (Virgin Islands Ordinances being made by the Governor of the Colony). The Presidential Councils have concurrent legislative powers with the General Legislative Council on specified subjects so far as their Ordinances are not repugnant to the Acts of the latter, and legislative power with regard to the residue of unspecified subjects.

I.—FINANCE.

The following table shows the local revenue and expenditure of the various Presidencies of the Colony for the five financial years 1926-27 to 1930-31.

REVENUE.

	1926–27.	1927–28.	1928–29.	1929–30.	1930–31.
	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	81,283	93,436	97,903	84,236	73,730
St. Kitts-Nevis	88,103	94,161	101,567	102,013	90,610
Dominica	57,833	60,315	67,946	70,674	63,440
Montserrat	22,688	22,426	30,330	27,389	25,176
Virgin Islands	9,486	9,734	9,120	6,787	5,707
	£259,393	280,072	306,866	291,099	258,663

Excluding Imperial Grants.

EXPENDITURE.

	1926–27.	1927–28.	1928–29.	1929–30.	1930–31.
	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	80,736	83,149	101,331	94,146	91,351
St. Kitts-Nevis	86,418	93,113	104,692	100,365	97,660
Dominica	62,395	80,715	80,517	92,426	71,177
Montserrat	21,140	19,986	32,278	31,007	28,805
Virgin Islands	8,348	7,240	9,487	6,871	7,027
	£259,037	284,203	328,305	324,815	296,020

II.—PRODUCTION.

The principal exports of the Colony during 1930 were as follows :—

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Mont-serrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*
Sugar (tons)	16,750	17,637	—	—	—
Molasses (gal.) ...	40,000	9,495	—	—	—
Cotton (lb.)	72,497	778,761	—	631,666	400
Cotton Seed (tons)	20	364	—	209	—
Lime Juice, raw (gal.)	—	195,994	5,184	—	—
Lime Juice, concentrated (gal.)	300	—	45,832	524	—
Coco-nuts (No.) ...	—	16,144	96,802	—	6,123
Salt (tons)	—	1,492	—	—	25
Fresh Limes (brls.) ...	214	—	17,461	72	20
Essential Oil, Bay (lb.)	—	—	15,948	115	—
Do. In solution in lime juice (lb.).	—	—	4,583	—	—
Lime Oil, distilled (lb.)	288	—	25,677	—	—
Otto of Limes, Ecuelled Oil (lb.).	—	—	1,551	6	—
Mangoes (boxes) ...	—	—	3,363	—	—
Tobacco (lb.)	—	—	—	—	6,675
Cigars (No.)	—	—	—	—	165,350
Cattle (No.) ...	—	100	—	163	1,115
Goats (No.)	—	39	—	—	2,895
Charcoal (£)	—	10	1	—	1,204
Cocoa, raw	—	300	409,536	—	—
Onions (crates) ...	371	4	—	2,884	76
Sheep (No.)	1	132	—	2	408
Tamarinds (brls.) ...	1,641	170	39	148	—

III.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

IMPORTS.

The total value of the imports into the Leeward Islands during the year 1930 amounted to £757,898, as shown below :—

Place.	*Antigua.*	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Mont-serrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	55,801	93,681	72,213	14,298	1,918	237,911
Canada	44,047	73,063	46,314	21,292	144	184,860
Other British Possessions.	22,158	30,426	36,403	24,239	3,097	116,323
United States of America.	54,473	69,097	37,361	9,921	4,847	175,699
Other Foreign Countries.	7,724	19,997	8,599	2,431	4,354	43,105
Totals... ...	£184,203	286,264	200,890	72,181	14,360	757,898

EXPORTS.

The total value of the exports from the Leeward Islands during the year 1930 amounted to £612,854, as shown below :—

Place.	*Antigua.*	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Montserrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	55,810	103,015	40,380	39,194	801	239,200
Canada	125,587	139,009	5,978	1,188	34	271,796
Other British Possessions.	950	10,158	7,231	4,795	703	23,837
United States of America.	1,431	662	54,850	9,041	66	66,050
Other Foreign Countries.	—	1,013	620	803	9,535	11,971
Totals... ...	£183,778	253,857	109,059	55,021	11,139	612,854

IV.—COMMUNICATIONS.

St. Kitts, Nevis, Antigua, Montserrat, and Dominica are ports of call of the Canadian National Steamships, subsidized by the Canadian Government and the several Colonial Governments which were parties to the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement, 1925. No other lines call regularly at Nevis or Montserrat, but the other islands are visited by steamers of the Furness Bermuda, Ocean Dominion, and Western Ocean lines, and by cargo steamers of the Canadian National Steamships. No steamships call at the Virgin Islands, Anguilla, or Barbuda. A passenger and cargo steamer of the Harrison Line proceeds regularly from London every four weeks direct to Antigua, and these ships call sometimes on the return journey to London.

St. John's, Antigua, is an airport, served by the Pan American Airways, Inc.

Sailing vessels proceed frequently between Antigua and Montserrat, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Kitts and Anguilla, among the Virgin Islands and between the Virgin Islands and St. Thomas.

Mails to and from Europe are sent via the United States or Barbados, save when there is a direct steamer to or from England. Parcels are only dealt with at the shipping ports.

Imperial postal orders are issued and paid in the Colony and money orders are exchanged direct with Great Britain, Canada, the United States, and the British West Indies, Bermuda, and British Guiana.

Telegraphic communication is maintained by means of wireless and cable. There are wireless stations at Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica which are owned by Imperial and International Communications, Ltd., and one in Montserrat owned by the Presidency and operated by the above-mentioned company.

V.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The Supreme Court of the Leeward Islands consists of a Chief Justice resident in Antigua, and two Puisne Judges, one in Dominica and the other in St. Kitts. Circuit Courts are held in Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica three times a year (January, May, and October); in Nevis and Montserrat three times a year, and in the Virgin Islands annually in April. Anguilla forms a Circuit but the Court is not held there, but in St. Kitts. Duly qualified barristers are entitled to practise as solicitors in the Colony.

The Colony is divided into twelve magisterial districts, two in Antigua, two in St. Kitts, three in Dominica, and one each in Nevis, Montserrat, the Virgin Islands, Anguilla, and Barbuda.

The Police Force of the Colony is under a Chief Inspector resident at Antigua. Inspectors are stationed at Dominica and St. Kitts, and Sub-Inspectors at Dominica, Antigua, and Montserrat.

A certain amount of smuggling is carried on in Dominica, but otherwise there is but little crime in the Colony.

VI.—PUBLIC WORKS.

There is no Federal Department of Public Works. The maintenance of roads is more difficult in Dominica, owing to excessive rainfall, than in the other Presidencies.

VII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Colony as a whole is distinctly healthy, though malaria is common in Dominica, Nevis, and (to some extent) in Antigua.

Dominica has an abundant supply of good water, and there is also a good supply in St. Kitts and Montserrat.

Infantile mortality is high in all the Presidencies, due chiefly to improper feeding and insanitary conditions, but increased efforts towards improvements are now being made.

Venereal complaints are common throughout the Colony, but special clinics have this year been established in an endeavour to eradicate these diseases.

There was an epidemic of malaria in Nevis during the year and of a streptococcal disease in St. Kitts.

The population of the Colony as estimated on the 31st December, 1930, is as follows :—

Antigua and Barbuda	30,909
St. Kitts and Nevis	30,933
Anguilla	4,856
Dominica	42,343
Montserrat	12,196
Virgin Islands	5,263
	126,500

Population is densest in Montserrat and most sparse in the Virgin Islands, where numerous waterless islets are uninhabited.

The birth and death-rates per 1,000 of the population are as follows :—

	Birth-rate	*Death-rate*
Antigua and Barbuda	38.7	24.7
St. Kitts	47.3	40.6
Nevis	28.4	25.9
Anguilla	32.5	19.6
Dominica	39.7	21.6
Montserrat	34.9	17.7
Virgin Islands	37.2	14.8

VIII.—EDUCATION.

The number of Government and assisted elementary schools in the Colony is 110 (Antigua 24, Barbuda 1, St. Kitts 18, Nevis 10, Anguilla 5, Dominica 29, Montserrat 13, Virgin Islands 10), with a total roll of 26,412 children and an average attendance of 17,951. The schools in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands are still denominational, and there are a few private schools in all the other Presidencies. The pupil-teacher system is in vogue, the period of service being three years. Studentships are awarded to specially selected candidates at the conclusion of their pupil teachership, for two years, to complete their training as assistant teachers. Those for girls are held at Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, Antigua, and those for boys at the Rawle Training Institute, Codrington College, Barbados.

There is one Department of Education for the Colony, under a Federal Inspector, with local Inspectors in Antigua, Dominica, and St. Kitts-Nevis, and there are Local Boards of Education in each Presidency.

For secondary education there are Government Grammar Schools for boys in St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat, a private Grammar School for boys in Antigua, private Girls' High Schools in Antigua and St. Kitts, and private mixed schools in Antigua, Nevis, St. Kitts (Convent), and Dominica (Convent).

The standard of the secondary schools is up to that of the Cambridge School Certificate.

There is a training college for female teachers in Antigua (under the control of the Moravian Church).

A scholarship of £200 a year for three years, or five if necessary, is granted annually on the result of the Cambridge School Certificate Examination, and is open to boys and girls under 19 years of age. This scholarship was first won by a girl in 1929.

IX.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

Most of the land of the Colony, save in Barbuda and in the interior of Dominica, is privately owned and has been mapped to a greater or less extent.

There are no known deposits of valuable minerals, with the exception of molybdenum at Virgin Gorda and phosphates at Redonda and Sombrero. None of these is now worked.

X.—LABOUR.

There is no immigrant labour. The Leeward Islands were formerly a source of labour for Cuba, the Dominican Republic, the United States of America, and Curaçao, but such emigration has been largely stopped by quota laws and other restrictions.

XI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Thirteen Acts were passed by the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands during the year 1930, of which the most important were the following :—

No. 1 of 1930 entitled " An Act to provide for the registration in the Colony of Trade Marks registered in the United Kingdom ".

No. 3 of 1930 entitled " An Act to provide for the protection in the Colony of Designs registered in the United Kingdom ".

No. 6 of 1930 entitled " An Act to amend the law with regard to the destruction of Children at or before birth ".

His Excellency Lieutenant-Colonel T. R. St. Johnston, C.M.G., Governor (now Sir Reginald St. Johnston, K.C.M.G.), was absent from the Colony from 28th April to 12th September, 1930, during which time the Honourable E. W. Baynes, C.B.E., Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands, acted as Governor of the Colony, and Mr. E. D'A. Tibbits, M.B.E., acted as Colonial Secretary.

The Honourable E. W. Baynes, C.B.E., was absent on leave from the Colony from 25th September, 1930, to 9th April, 1931, during which time Mr. E. D'A. Tibbits, M.B.E., again acted as Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands.

PRESIDENCY OF ANTIGUA.

GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY.

The Presidency of Antigua consists of the three islands of Antigua, Barbuda, and Redonda, the two former being the emergent portions of a bank which, it has been supposed, represents a former atoll uplifted at the south west (the mountainous district of Antigua, where the igneous base of the bank is exposed), while Redonda is an uninhabited " skerry ", 1,000 ft. in height, rising from deep water between the islands of Montserrat and Nevis.

The island of Antigua was discovered by Columbus in 1493 and named by him after a church in Seville called Sta Maria La Antigua. It was settled by a few English from St. Kitts in 1632.

Antigua is about 107 square miles in area and is roughly oval in shape, the coast being indented however by extensive creeks and bays and outlain by numerous islets and rocks, the largest of these being Guiana Island, about 3 miles long and separated from the main island by a channel only a few yards in width.

There are no forests and no rivers, the island's water supply being derived from reservoirs amongst the south west mountains, and from wells which tap underground streams from the same mountains. Droughts are frequent and, owing to the generally clayey nature of the soil, make the ground so hard that tillage is very difficult while they last.

Barbuda (administered by a Warden) is a flat island chiefly covered by scrub, some 30 miles N.N.E. of Antigua, with which it has communication by small sailing vessels. It has no streams, water being derived from brackish wells. Owing to its lowness, it cannot be seen at any considerable distance from ships, and numerous wrecks have occurred on its shores. A striking feature of Barbuda is the great landlocked lagoon on the western (leeward) side.

Redonda, which was formerly attached to Montserrat, is merely a waterless rock, but at one time over a hundred men were employed there mining phosphates.

The area and population (according to the 1921 Census) of the Presidency is as follows :—

	Area sq. miles.	*Population.*	*Population per sq. mile.*
Antigua	107	28,864	269·76
Barbuda	62	903	14·57
Redonda	1	Nil.	Nil.
Total	170	29,767	174·7

For a later estimate of the population see page 7.

The capital is St. John's, a cathedral city, with a population (1921) of 6,997, on a spacious but shallow harbour on the west side of Antigua in Latitude 17° 6′ N. and Longitude 61° 45′ W.

Parham on the north coast of Antigua ranks as a town, but has diminished in importance to a village. There is only one village (Codrington) on Barbuda.

LANGUAGE, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES, AND CURRENCY.

Only English is spoken, and British weights and measures are used. The currency is sterling, with the addition of $5.00 (£1 0s. 10d.) notes of Barclays Bank and the Royal Bank of Canada.

I.—FINANCE.

The financial year 1930-31 opened with a deficit brought forward on 1st April, 1930, of £9,189. The revenue for the year 1930-31 was estimated at £82,419 and the expenditure at £91,057, not including provision for, or expenditure on, Colonial Development Works. The actual revenue for the year was £73,730 or £8,689 below the estimate, and the actual expenditure was £91,351 or £294 more than the estimate. Owing to the serious falling off in revenue, investments on account of Reserve Fund and Marine Craft Fund were realized at £14,374 and besides this the Imperial Government made a grant in aid of administration of £5,000. In addition to this the Imperial Government also provided a sum of £10,500 in aid of relief of distress due to the serious crisis in the sugar industry. Of this amount £7,622 was expended on relief works and £2,386 on soup kitchens and for small pecuniary relief to aged paupers.

The items of revenue under which there was the heaviest falling off were—Head 1, Import duties on articles other than alcoholic liquors, a decrease of approximately £2,500; Import duties on alcoholic liquors, a decrease of £1,919; Head 2, Tonnage and Harbour Dues, a drop of approximately £340; Head 5, Sale of Postage Stamps, a decrease of £1,978; and Head 3, Internal Revenue, a decrease of £1,206.

The deficit on the year's working after realizing the investments on account of Reserve Fund and Marine Craft Fund was £7,435.

During the year £16,212 was expended on schemes approved by the Colonial Development Advisory Committee.

From the 1st of January, 1931, the export duty on sugar was abolished with a view to assisting the industry.

The amount of the Public Debt outstanding on the 31st of March, 1931, was £145,000, and the accumulated Sinking Funds £104,694 8s. 4d.

II.—PRODUCTION.

Sugar.—Climatic conditions during 1929 were on the whole favourable for the 1930 crop, the total rainfall, 40.78 inches, being well distributed, but a severe drought started early in 1930 and somewhat adversely affected yields. The crop was, however, a fair one, 18,267 tons of sugar being produced and 16,750 tons of sugar valued at £173,715 and 40,000 gallons of molasses valued at £1,482 being exported.

The rainfall during 1930 was the lowest yet recorded, being only 25.51 inches, and the prospects for the 1931 crop were exceedingly poor. This fact, coupled with the low price ruling for sugar, resulted in a most serious economic position.

The area planted under canes for the 1932 crop was reduced, and the reduction would have been very much greater had not the Antigua Sugar Factory assisted contracting estates by a loan free of interest.

Notwithstanding this loan there was considerable unemployment, relieved through relief work financed by an Imperial grant-in-aid.

As stated in the last report, sugar production in Antigua is closely correlated with weather conditions—the rainfall in any given year being reflected in the output during the following year. This is illustrated in the following tabular summary showing rainfall and sugar exports for the period 1924-1930.

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
Sugar (tons) ...	7,081	16,530	11,466	22,269	18,906	9,700	16,750
Rainfall of preceding year (inches).	32·41	41·57	30·75	50·20	45·84	33·20	40·78

Cotton.—The 1930 crop was reaped from approximately 815 acres. Poor germination and severe attacks of the cotton caterpillar considerably reduced the output, the total production being 244 bales (69,197 lb. net) of clean lint cotton and 11 bales (3,300 lb. net) of stained lint cotton.

During the year 1930 there was a considerable fall in the price of sea island cotton coupled with a decreased demand, a portion of the crop remaining unsold at the end of the year. The estimated value of the cotton exported in 1930 was £5,190.

The acreage planted for the 1930 crop was approximately 1,500 acres. Climatic conditions were again unsuitable and attacks of the cotton caterpillar severe, the prospects for the 1931 crop being poor.

Pink Boll Worm was somewhat more plentiful than in 1929 but did not cause serious damage.

Limes.—During 1929 the lime trees were slowly recovering from the effects of the 1928 hurricane; the severe drought experienced in 1930 caused a further set back, the lime products exported being:—

	Quantity.	*Value.* £
Green limes	214 brls.	214
Lime juice (raw)	nil	nil
Lime juice (conc.)	300 gal.	32
Lime oil	288 lb.	416

The area under limes is slowly being increased but it will be several years before the newer plantings come into bearing.

Vegetables.—During the winter season 1930-31 a packing house was opened under the supervision of the Agricultural Department. Owing to the drought, however, only 393 crates in all were shipped.

Minor Agricultural Products.—The minor products exported include :—

Onions to the value of £185.
Hides and Skins to the value of £142.
Tamarinds to the value of £1,641.
Stock to the value of £226.

III.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The only industrial establishments in the Presidency are the two sugar factories, the Antigua Sugar Factory at Gunthropes, near the centre of the island, and the Bendals (Antigua) Sugar Factory at the south west.

The imports in 1930 amounted to £184,203, £55,801 being from the British Isles, £44,047 from Canada, and £54,473 from United States of America. The largest single item was flour £19,865 (almost entirely from Canada), the next in order being cornmeal £13,541, cotton goods £11,916, dried fish £6,260, pitch pine lumber £5,667, white pine £4,940, machinery for sugar manufacture £4,021, and hardware £2,659.

Exports amounted to £185,381, £55,810 being to the British Isles.

The value of sugar included in the total was £173,715 (16,750 tons) and of molasses £1,482 (40,000 gallons).

The shipping calling at St. John's during 1930 was 838,830 tons.

IV.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Communication by steamship and aircraft has already been referred to.

There are no passenger railways, but the two sugar factories have each a light railway system for the haulage of sugar-cane, and the sugar is conveyed from the Antigua Sugar Factory to the wharf by this means.

There are about 65 miles of main roads in Antigua but none in Barbuda. The most important roads radiate from St. John's, but the villages are connected by a network of by-ways which are generally passable for motor traffic.

There is a General Post Office at St. John's and 14 Sub-Post Offices in the principal villages, including one in Barbuda. Parcels (10,738 received and 2,143 sent in 1930) and money orders are dealt with at St. John's only. Letters are delivered twice daily by postmen in the City District.

There is a wireless telegraph station two miles from **St. John's** and cable communication also exists.

A Government telephone system has existed for many years in Antigua with a central exchange at St. John's and local exchanges at Parham and All Saints. There are 310 instruments and 570 miles of wire.

There are no inland telegraphs.

V.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The Presidency is the headquarters of the Chief Justice of the Colony and forms one Circuit of the Supreme Court, sessions of which are held three times a year.

There is one Magistrate in Antigua (holding courts at St. John's, Bolans, All Saints, and Parham), while the Warden of Barbuda is Magistrate for that island.

The police are under the command of the Chief Inspector for the Colony, whose headquarters are at St. John's and under whom is a Sub-Inspector permanently stationed in the Presidency. There are police stations at St. John's and the principal villages, and a constable is stationed in Barbuda.

The Antigua Prison is the Central Prison for the Colony to which are sent all offenders sentenced in the other Presidencies to terms of more than twelve months' imprisonment. 261 prisoners (181 males and 80 females) were admitted during 1930-31, the daily average being 86-87. The accommodation of the prison is as follows :—

	Males.	*Females.*
Separate cells ...	72 to hold 72	20 to hold 20
Association cells...	7 to hold 35	3 to hold 9
Infirmary ward ...	1 to hold 9	1 to hold 3
	116	32

There is a reformatory known as the St. John's Training School, to which boys from all the Presidencies are sent.

VI.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The more important public works carried out during the year were as follows :—

The erection of a crêche at All Saints.

The erection of a telephone exchange and post office at All Saints.

The construction of concrete drains through Gray's Farm Village.

The erection of a new Leper Home.

The duplication of a part of the main water-supply line from Brecknocks to Gray's Hill Reservoir.

The erection of model cottages for the peasants.

The erection of a Tourist Information Bureau.

VII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The island is divided into five Medical Districts. There are nurse-midwives in the villages, under a female Superintendent.

In Barbuda there is a dispenser but no medical officer, the island being occasionally visited by a Medical Officer from Antigua.

There is a General Hospital (on the outskirts of St. John's) with a qualified Matron and Assistant Matron, and also a Leper Home, a Lunatic Asylum, and a Poor House.

A grant of £10,000 having been obtained from the Colonial Development Fund, a special health campaign is being carried out under the supervision of Major-General H. P. W. Barrow, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., O.B.E., late R.A.M.C.

A well equipped and up-to-date Pathological Laboratory has been established in the island.

There has been no epidemic during the year, except influenza of a mild type, which caused much sickness but very few deaths. There was a marked decrease in malaria during the year. This was in part due to the prolonged drought, and in part to the work done by the Malaria Committee during the previous year in distributing quinine and in stocking all permanent collections of water with mosquito devouring fish.

VIII.—EDUCATION.

For secondary education there is a Grammar School (Church of England) for boys, and a Girls' High School under the management of a Board of Trustees. Secondary education is also provided by the Thomas Oliver Robinson Memorial School. All these schools receive grants from the Government.

Antigua Grammar School.—The school is the property of the Diocese of Antigua, His Grace the Archbishop of the West Indies being chairman of the governing body. The numbers of boys at the Antigua Grammar School for the year 1930 were :—Lent Term 67, Trinity Term 70, Michaelmas Term 74. The staff consists of the headmaster and four assistants. There are 5 government and 2 agricultural scholars.

Cambridge Local Examination results.

	Sat.	*Passed.*	*Including Honours.*
December, 1929.			
School Certificate	3	3	1
Junior	7	7	—
December, 1930.			
School Certificate	3	3	2
Junior	10	10	—

Receipts for 1930.

	$
Tuition Fees	3,022.00
Government Grant	3,715.20
Board, Donations, Extras, &c.	4,094.09
Total Receipts	$10,831.29

The games played are cricket and football. There are also facilities for boating and swimming.

Girls' High School.—The Girls' High School in Antigua was founded in 1886. The school now possesses its own buildings and grounds, most conveniently situated in St. John's near to the Cathedral. There are the headmistresses' house, assistant Mistresses' Cottage, Dormitories, large schoolrooms and two play-grounds for tennis and other games.

There are 75-85 pupils, mostly day pupils from Antigua, but a number of boarders from the other islands of the Colony and from St. Croix in the Virgin Islands which belongs to the United States of America. There is accommodation for 23 boarders.

Besides the two headmistresses there are five assistant mistresses resident at the school.

The syllabus of work is based on the Cambridge Local Examinations, and girls are regularly presented every year for the School Certificate and the Junior Certificate. Very successful results have been attained.

The sports include swimming in the sea, tennis, cricket, net ball, and stool ball.

The school buildings are in the hands of three trustees, and the Board of Management consists of His Grace the Archbishop of the West Indies, five leading gentlemen of the island, and one lady. The school is assisted by an annual grant from the Government of £200 including five government scholarships.

For primary education in Antigua there are 20 government schools and one grant-aided school. In Barbuda there is a Church of England primary school which receives a government grant.

Antigua is the headquarters of the Federal Inspector of Schools, who is assisted by a Local Inspector.

The Spring Garden Female Teachers' Training College at St. John's is under the management of the Moravian Church.

IX.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

The south west of Antigua consists of picturesque mountains (Boggy Peak, 1,330 ft.) clothed with grass and low scrub and diversified by deep and narrow valleys. These mountains are of volcanic origin and supposedly of Eocene age. Above this formation in geological order is an outcrop of tuffs and cherts, etc., extending across the island from St. John's Harbour to Willoughby

Bay. Next in order is the narrow belt of "Cassada Garden Gravels" (for the most part poor soil), and above this, occupying the north and north-east of the island, the fossiliferous "Antigua Formation" of limestone, the remains of the hypothetical atoll-lagoon. The succession of strata causes the island to be crossed by a series of ridges running W.N.W.-E.S.E., the limestone especially rising in a steep escarpment over the gravel formation.

Barbuda is of recent coral formation, but is probably underlain by the same strata which appear in Antigua.

Barbuda and Redonda belong to the Crown but the area of Crown Land in Antigua is negligible.

Redonda was leased by an English company which formerly extracted phosphates, but the company surrendered the lease at the end of 1930. There are no other valuable minerals known to exist in the Presidency.

X.—LABOUR.

Almost the whole population of Antigua is employed, directly or indirectly, in the sugar industry. The daily wages of field labourers average in normal times from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 4d. for men and 9d. for women. At the sugar factories the wages are from 2s. to 3s. a day. The wages of artisans are from 3s. to 4s. 2d. a day, while for domestic servants from 3s. to 7s. is paid a week.

The people of Barbuda are largely self-supporting and produce vegetables and stock for export.

There is very little immigration or emigration of labour though formerly large numbers used to emigrate to the United States of America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Curaçao, and other places.

PRESIDENCY OF ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY.

The Presidency of St. Christopher and Nevis (" St. Kitts-Nevis ") consists of the two volcanic islands of St. Christopher (St. Kitts) and Nevis, and the limestone island of Anguilla. The capital of the Presidency is Basseterre on St. Kitts, Latitude 17°18′N. and Longitude 62°43′W. The mountain axis of St. Kitts and Nevis runs N.W.-S.E., the former being the more northerly and, except for the small Dutch islands of St. Eustatius and Saba, the northern termination of the partly submerged volcanic mountain range of the Lesser Antilles. Anguilla, running N.E.-S.W., lies some 70 miles N.N.E. of St. Kitts and forms part, with St. Martin and St. Bartholomew, of a separate island-group.

The two volcanic islands are mountainous (Mt. Misery, St. Kitts, 3,711 ft.; Nevis Peak, about 3,596 ft.) and the upper slopes are covered with dense, dank forest, with tree ferns and palms. The lowlands are cultivated or in pasture. The highest point of Anguilla is only 213 feet above the sea. The island is undulating. There is much low-growing scrub except where the land is cultivated for cotton or ground provisions.

The areas and population (according to the 1921 Census) of the three islands are as follows :—

	Area. sq. miles.	*Population.*	*Population per square mile.*
St. Kitts	68	22,415	329.6
Nevis	50	11,569	231.4
Anguilla	34	4,230	124.4
Totals	152	38,214	

St. Kitts and Nevis were discovered by Columbus in 1493, and an English settlement (the first in the West Indies) was established on the former in 1623, whence the latter was colonized in 1628. A French settlement was established in St. Kitts about 1625, and, after the two nations had combined to expel the Carib Indians (in 1629), the island was divided, the French taking the two ends, which have since been known as Basseterre and Capisterre. There was frequent warfare between the French and English in St. Kitts, the great seige of Brimstone Hill, " The Gibraltar of the West Indies ", occurring in 1782. The islands have been uninterruptedly British since 1783, the last French invasion occurring, however, in 1805. Two great names are associated with Nevis—Alexander Hamilton, who was born there, and Nelson, whose marriage took place there in 1787.

The date of discovery of Anguilla is uncertain. It has remained British since its colonization about 1650, although invaded at times by the French and Caribs.

LANGUAGE, CURRENCY, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The language of the whole Presidency is English and British currency (with the addition of $5.00 Bank Notes) and British weights and measures are used.

I.—FINANCE.

Revenue and expenditure for the past five years are given on page 4. The financial year 1930-31 opened with a surplus of £1,164. The revenue for the year was estimated at £98,500, and the expenditure at £98,376, not including provision for, or expenditure on, Colonial Development Works. The actual revenue was £90,610 or £7,890 below the estimate, and the actual expenditure was £97,659 or £717 below the estimate. The excess of assets over liabilities at the end of the financial year, after realizing the investments on account of the Reserve Fund, was £713. The sum of £10,042 was expended during the year on Colonial Development Fund schemes. The amount of the Public Debt outstanding on the 31st of March, 1931, was £72,350, and the accumulated Sinking Funds £43,150 19s. 7d.

II.—PRODUCTION.

The principal product of the Presidency is sugar, the cultivation of this crop being carried on almost entirely in St. Kitts. Cotton is grown in all three islands. An export trade in fruit and vegetables to Canada is being promoted.

The only mineral product is salt, chiefly from Anguilla.

The value of the exports for the past five years of the principal products has been as follows :—

Year.	*Sugar.*	*Cotton.*	*Coco-nuts.*	*Salt.*
	£	£	£	£
1926	215 744	44,169	1,443	700
1927	287,881	35,205	2,441	2,222
1928	265,490	36,038	2,040	2,613
1929	150,153	66 407	10	2,373
1930	178,654	65,484	100	2,984

III.—COMMUNICATIONS.

There are six ports of entry in the Presidency—Basseterre and Sandy Point in St. Kitts, Charlestown in Nevis, and Road, Forest, and Blowing Point in Anguilla; but Basseterre and Charlestown are the only ports at which steamers call.

The number of ships calling at these ports during 1930 has been as follows :—

	Steamers.	*Sailing Ships.*	*Total.*
Basseterre	261	325	586
Sandy Point	—	—	—
Charlestown	56	28	84
Road, Forest and Blowing Point.	—	776	776

There are no railways, with the exception of a light railway in St. Kitts owned by the Sugar Factory and used exclusively for the transport of sugar cane.

On account of the mountainous character of the interior of St. Kitts and Nevis, there is only one main road (round the island) in each of them. These main roads are kept in a good state of repair and are used by a considerable volume of motor and other traffic. The main road of Anguilla runs the length of the island. In the volcanic islands the roads cross numerous ravines (ghauts) which necessitate sharp curves and gradients. The watercourses at the bottoms (usually dry) are crossed by paved fords or occasionally by bridges.

The General Post Office is at Basseterre, and there are Branch Offices at Charlestown (Nevis), Sandy Point (St. Kitts), and the Valley (Anguilla). There are also 11 Sub-Post Offices.

Ordinary letters are handled at all these offices, but parcels are dealt with only at Basseterre, Charlestown, and the Valley, and registered letters are received (and delivered) only at Basseterre, Charlestown, and the Valley, though they are delivered also at Sandy Point, Cayon, Dieppe Bay, and Old Road.

A wireless telegraph station near Basseterre is the only station in the Presidency.

When weather conditions permit heliograph and flashlight communication is made between St. Kitts and Nevis.

There is a wireless telegraph station in the Dutch portion of St. Martin, a few miles from Anguilla. Basseterre is connected by cable with St. Thomas and Antigua, and thence with the general cable system.

A telephone system has been installed in all three islands.

There are no inland telegraphs.

IV.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

A Puisne Judge of the Colony is stationed in the Presidency, which is divided into three Circuits, each island constituting one. Courts are held three times a year in St. Kitts and Nevis.

The Presidency is divided into four magisterial districts, two in St. Kitts and one each in the other islands.

During 1930, there were 33 criminal trials in the Circuit Courts of the Presidency leading to 17 convictions. During the same period 3,227 persons were brought before the magistrates, and 2,270 of these were convicted.

The Police of the Presidency form part of a Federal body, and are commanded by an Inspector and a Sub-Inspector, the latter post having, however, been vacant for a considerable period. There are police stations in the principal villages.

There is one prison, at Basseterre, but prisoners serving sentences of more than one year are transferred to the Central Prison of the Colony. The prisoners are employed on gardening and other works.

V.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Special works carried out during the year from Presidential funds include the continuation of the Basseterre sea wall, the laying of fire mains and hydrants, Basseterre, and the construction of a jetty at the Road, Anguilla.

A start was made in Sandy Point with the construction of hire-purchase houses for the peasantry for which a free grant of £6,500 and a loan of an equivalent sum had been made from Colonial Development Funds for improving the living conditions of these people in St. Kitts.

The erection of an ice-making and cold-storage plant in Charlestown, Nevis, for which a loan of £2,382 was granted from Colonial Development Funds was commenced in February.

The Survey Engineer whose appointment for two years had been provided for by a free grant of £3,072 was engaged in Nevis with his staff gathering data from which estimates were to be prepared of works for the improvement of the water-supply of the island.

VI.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Department of Public Health is under the Chief Medical Officer of the Presidency. Dr. C. H. Durrant, M.B., Ch.B., who held the appointment, died in March, 1931, and the duties have since been undertaken (temporarily) by Dr. E. R. Branch, Medical Officer, District I, who still performs his substantive duties.

The outbreak of streptococcus haemolyticus which prevailed here the year before last and last year has practically subsided, there being only occasional sporadic cases.

The dental clinics have done good work in St. Kitts and Nevis. Free dental treatment for school children and labourers in Anguilla has also been provided from the 1st of April, 1931.

The Medical Officer of Health whose appointment was made possible by a free grant of £2,700 from Colonial Development Funds arrived in the Presidency on 1st February, but owing to an unfortunate illness was unable to assume duties and left the Presidency for Bermuda for medical treatment. Subsequently he resigned his appointment and returned to England.

The health conditions of the Presidency at the present time are very good, there being no epidemic in any of the islands.

The sanitary conditions are very good, and great improvement in the scavenging of the Town of Basseterre has taken place by the Government-owned trucks, and the opening up of several new streets in the McKnight District of the town.

VII.—EDUCATION.

For secondary education there are a Grammar School for boys (owned by Government), a High School for girls (subsidized by Government), a Convent High School, and a school in Nevis. The standard aimed at is that of the Cambridge School Certificate.

There are sixteen primary schools in St. Kitts (including 3 for infants, 2 for boys, 2 for girls, and the rest mixed), ten in Nevis (1 for infants, 2 for boys, and 2 for girls), and five in Anguilla. There is an Inspector of Schools for the Presidency stationed in St. Kitts, and an Educational District Officer in each of the other islands. The number of children on the roll is 7,173.

VIII.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

There are practically no Crown Lands in the Presidency. St. Kitts is divided up amongst a limited number of estates, whilst in Nevis and Anguilla there are numbers of peasant proprietors. Only the lowlands and sub-mountain slopes in the volcanic islands are cultivated, the mountain forests being maintained to attract moisture.

The geological structure of St. Kitts and Nevis is similar to that of the other volcanic islands of the Lesser Antilles—strata of andesitic (hypersthene) boulder and volcanic "ash" radiating from the central mountains. In St. Kitts, the soil of the lowlands is loose, sandy, and extremely porous, and the soil in the forest-clad mountain is a stiff reddish clay; in Nevis the soil is everywhere clayey, and is strewn with large boulders such as are not seen in St. Kitts.

Anguilla consists of Eocene limestone and recent coral formations.

There are no mineral deposits of value in the Presidency; the salt exported is obtained by evaporation of sea water.

IX.—LABOUR.

Almost the whole population in St. Kitts is employed, directly or indirectly, in the sugar industry. The wages of field labourers average, in normal times, from 1s. 6d. to 2s. a day for men, or from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. a task, and from 10d. to 1s. a day for women.

At the Sugar Factory the wages of unskilled labourers are from 1s. 8d. to 2s. a day, and of skilled labourers from 2s. 6d. to 6s.

The wages of artisans are 3s. 6d. to 5s. a day, whilst for domestic servants, from £25 to £50 a year is paid for men, and from £12 to £20 a year for women.

In Nevis a great proportion of the population is occupied in the cultivation of provision crops on small holdings, and in Anguilla many of the men are engaged in seafaring.

There has in the recent past been a large emigration of labourers to Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Curaçao.

There is no immigration of labour into the Presidency as a whole, but labourers from Nevis come to St. Kitts to work on the sugar estates.

During the year, in order to relieve distress caused from unemployment, it was necessary to employ labour to a considerable extent both in St. Kitts and Nevis. The maximum rate paid was 1s. 2d. a day and except in special circumstances the labourers were employed 4 days only a week.

PRESIDENCY OF DOMINICA.

I.—GENERAL.

Last year reference was made to the promising results as the outcome of Imperial assistance by way of loans and grants for assisting planters and small holders in re-establishing their plantations with varieties of citrus plants resistant to root diseases and capable of withstanding wind pressure, in place of the West Indian seedling lime which had been affected by withertip and root diseases. The economic cultivation of the whole island had to a large extent recovered from the 1928 hurricane, and the prospects of good crops as a reward for the efforts of planters during the past two years were being looked forward to with some hope. Once again, however, these hopes were shattered, when on the 1st September, 1930, the island was visited by a severe hurricane causing great destruction to all kinds of permanent cultivation, and to estates, works, and buildings. The slender source of revenue derived from the West Indian seedling limes which assisted the planters in replacing that variety of citrus cultivation with the sturdier variety of citrus, budded or grafted on the sour orange stock, has now almost entirely vanished while the new cultivation put in during the past 4 years is not yet productive. The plight of the planters can therefore be readily realized. Urgent representations have been put forward for further assistance by means of loans on easy terms to planters through the Loan Board, to re-establish their devastated estates and to repair their works, and that the Board should be allowed extended powers for making loans on easy terms during the next few years; also for continuing the Plant Distribution Scheme which it has been unanimously agreed is one of the best means of assisting estate owners and small landowners. Only by this further assistance can it be hoped to recover the moneys already advanced to planters who, but for this latest disaster, would in some cases have been in a position in a year or two to have commenced repaying the loans made to them.

Heavy damage was also sustained to government buildings, electric light and telephone services throughout the island, while in some sections the roads were badly damaged by the heavy rains and the overflowing of the rivers. The Roseau river overflowed its banks and seriously damaged the foundations of the new Tubercular Ward then in the course of erection, and it has been necessary to construct at once a further section of river-protecting wall to the east of Roseau to save the lower section of the town from inundation.

Considerable improvement has been effected in the drainage of Roseau and some of the larger villages out of moneys provided by the Colonial Development Fund, and the Road Engineer selected for carrying through a Road Scheme with funds similarly provided is engaged in reconstructing the main streets of Roseau and the more important main roads of the island.

It is hoped that it may be found possible to obtain further funds from this source for much needed reconstruction of the main roads in the country districts to facilitate the transport of produce for export.

II.—FINANCE.

Revenue and expenditure for the past five years are given on page 4. The financial year 1930-31 opened with a deficit of £3,042. The revenue for the year was estimated at £69,513 and the expenditure at £69,327, not including provision for, or expenditure on, Colonial Development Works. The actual revenue was £63,440 or £6,073 below the estimate, and the actual expenditure £71,177 or £1,850 above the estimate. Owing to the serious falling off in revenue, due to the economic situation, the Imperial Government made a grant in aid of administration of £4,500. In addition, loan grants of £6,800 for peasant agriculture and of £8,868 for other services, including Hurricane Relief, were provided from Imperial Funds.

The financial year closed with an accumulated deficit of £6,280.

During the year a sum of £17,658 was expended on Colonial Development Fund schemes.

The amount of the Public Debt outstanding on the 31st of March, 1931, was £66,000, and the accumulated Sinking Funds £44,564.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The steady progress made in the agricultural development of the island as a result of Imperial assistance to planters received a staggering blow from an exceptionally severe hurricane on the 1st of September which played havoc with estate buildings and destroyed crops generally.

Lime cultivations, or rather such as had so far escaped the ravages of root disease, were almost completely destroyed, and Dominica's staple industry is in a critical condition. Exports of lime products for 1930 show a further decline of 19,000 barrels and undoubtedly will continue to fall to a very low ebb, as no improvement can be looked for until recent plantings of the lime grafted or budded on disease and hurricane resistant sour orange stock come into bearing. Dominica must of necessity begin all over again to build up its lime industry and planters should profit from what they have learnt from bitter experience.

The task of raising sufficient budded plants to replant an extensive area is no small one, especially when careful stock selection must be employed before budding operations can be commenced. Good progress has been made, and during 1930 no fewer than 24,100 budded or grafted lime plants were distributed to growers by the Agricultural Department. But for the hurricane, this number would have met the demand for the year. No difficulty is, however, anticipated in meeting the demand for 1932 plantings.

The following table, which gives the crop shipped since 1921, is calculated in barrels of fruit and expressed in round numbers, and will illustrate the decline of the seedling lime industry through a series of disease and hurricane causes.

1921	516,000	Prior to appearance of Withertip.
1922	400,000	
1923	228,000	
1924	424,000	Includes carry over from 1923.
1925	230,000	
1926	214,000	
1927	210,000	
1928	205,000	
1929	133,000	
1930	114,000	

The following table calculated on the usual basis shows the disposal of the crop under various heads.

Products.	*Barrels of fruit.*	*Approximate percentage of total crop.*
Concentrated lime juice	68,748	60·38
Raw juice	26,133	22·95
Fresh limes	17,676	15·52
Pickled limes	205	·18
Lime juice cordial ...	1,106	·97

50 gallons of concentrated juice represents 75 barrels of lime fruits: 7½ gallons of raw juice represents 1 barrel of lime fruits: 1 ton of citrate of lime is equivalent to 226 barrels of lime fruits: 1 ton of citric acid is equivalent to 400 barrels of lime fruits: 1 gallon of lime juice cordial represents 5½ barrels of lime fruits.

The exports of products of the lime industry during 1930 are recorded below:—

Products.	*Quantity.*	*Value.* £
Concentrated lime juice	45,832 gals.	4,952
Raw lime juice	195,994 „	6,740
Lime juice cordial	201 „	98
Fresh limes	17,676 brls.	20,675
Pickled limes	205 „	178
Essential oil (distilled)	25,677 lb.	29,751
Otto of limes (handpressed or ecuelled).	1,551 „	4,216
Oils in solution in raw juice ...		5,079
		£91,689

The export of fresh fruit such as grapefruit, oranges, mangoes, and avocado pears was seriously affected by the hurricane, as approximately 75 per cent. of the crop was destroyed. Steady progress has, however, been made with new citrus plantings, and during the last three years the following plants have been distributed by the Agricultural Department:—Washington Navel Orange (budded) 3,590; Other Oranges (budded) 17; Grapefruit (budded) 5,201; Portugal Orange (budded) 143; Mandarin (budded) 59; Sweet Lime (budded) 74; Tangerine (budded) 113; Lemon (budded) 2,742; West Indian Lime (budded or grafted) 31,399; Limes (other varieties—budded) 5,042.

The Government Central Packing House was unroofed during the storm and a large quantity of fruit prepared for export was badly damaged. The building, which is the property of the Government, is now being repaired, and is shortly to be equipped with a cold-storage plant and machinery for the cleaning, grading, etc., of grapefruit and oranges.

Coco-nut, Cocoa, Coffee, and Vanilla.—All of these crops were very seriously damaged by the hurricane and but for this disaster would have shown a decided increase in exports.

Three hurricanes have stricken Dominica during the last four years and the planter is now faced with the stiff proposition of once again attempting to resuscitate his estate, and with very little, if any, funds for the purpose.

IV.—COMMUNICATIONS.

The Canadian National Steamships Limited maintain a regular and efficient fortnightly service from and to Canada.

As regards local communication, the hurricane of 1st September entirely disrupted the island's telephone system, which has been temporarily repaired pending the consideration of the laying of a ground trunk line to obviate the continued and heavy reconstruction and maintenance expenses of the overhead system.

The island coastal service by sea is a problem still awaiting solution. The auxiliary motor-power schooner was sunk in Portsmouth harbour in the hurricane, and though she has now been raised at some expense, she has not yet been able to take up the service owing to the damage sustained to her engines.

The island postal service was well maintained.

V.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

There has been little crime of a serious nature during the year under review. Police and prison efficiency has been well maintained.

VI.—PUBLIC WORKS.

During the last financial year the construction of a new Boys' School, Roseau, was started.

The following works, financed by grants or loans from the Colonial Development Fund, were completed during the year:—

Tubercular Ward.
Maternity Ward No. 1.
Observation Station.
New Wards, Portsmouth Hospital.
Drains for Village Streets.
Drains for Roseau Streets.
Water Service for six Country Villages.

Work was in progress on the following schemes:—

Maternity Ward No. 2.
Reconstruction and oiling, Roseau Street.
Reconstruction of certain main roads.
Construction of Blenheim River Bridge.
Erection of Cold-Storage Plant.

VII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The estimated population of Dominica at the end of 1930 was 42,343 as against 41,916 in 1929.

The births registered during the year were 1,471 as against 1,328 in 1929, giving a birth-rate of 35.46 per thousand of the population, as against 32.01 per thousand in 1929.

The births classified are as follows:—

	1929.			1930.		
	Male.	*Female.*	*Total.*	*Male.*	*Female.*	*Total.*
Legitimate births	293	321	614	353	284	637
Illegitimate births	334	380	714	431	403	834
	627	701	1,328	784	687	1,471

These figures speak for themselves. The percentage of legitimate and illegitimate births were 43.3 and 56.7, respectively.

The number of marriages recorded in 1930 was 176 as against 127 in 1929. Of these, 169 were solemnized in the Roman Catholic Church, 3 in the Church of England, and 4 in the Wesleyan Church.

The deaths registered during 1930 were 382 males and 419 females (801), as against 507 males and 576 females (1,083) in 1929.

The death-rate per thousand on the estimated population was 18.9 as against 26.1 per thousand in 1929.

The excess of arrivals over departures for the year was 191.

VIII.—EDUCATION.

Satisfactory progress continues in secondary education. The number of scholars in the Dominica Grammar School has increased, and the Roseau Convent School, now assisted by a Government grant, has increased its activities.

Primary education is still hampered by the overcrowding of schools, and lack of funds for much-needed extension and sanitation.

IX.—LANDS AND SURVEYS.

Three surveys of lands and five applications for the purchase of Crown lands were recorded during the year.

X.—LABOUR.

Unemployment has increased considerably during the past year. Not only have many labourers returned from Curaçao, but there is also very little employment provided by estates. It is hoped that with the assistance granted from Colonial Development Funds for the repairing and remaking of many of the island's roads, the number of unemployed will be decreased.

PRESIDENCY OF MONTSERRAT.

I.—GENERAL.

During the financial year 1930-31 the scheme for a cold-storage and ice-making plant, to be erected principally in connexion with the export of fruit and vegetable produce to the Canadian market, was approved, and assistance in the form of a loan towards the cost of installation was received from the Colonial Development Fund.

His Excellency the Governor visited the Presidency three times during the year.

H.M.S. *Dorsetshire* spent a few days in Montserrat during the time the fleet was in West Indian waters.

II.—FINANCE.

The revenue for 1930-31 amounted to £28,376. This included £2,200 received from the Colonial Development Fund towards the cost of a refrigerating and ice plant, and £1,000 transferred from Reserve Funds towards the cost of laying a duplicate pipe line to the town reservoir.

The expenditure amounted to £31,196. This included £2,391 spent to 31st March on the erection of the refrigerating and ice plant; £1,009 cost of land, etc., for town extension, and £1,329 for the duplicate pipe line referred to above.

The year opened with a deficit of £366 2s. 6d. and closed with a deficit of £3,186.

The amount to the credit of the Sinking Funds on 31st March, 1931, was as follows:—

			£	*s.*	*d.*
Public Works Loan, 1893,	of	£10,000 ...	7,928	16	5
Wireless Loan, 1925	of	£3,000 ...	1,006	5	7
		£13,000	£8,935	2	0

The Savings Bank did very little business during the year. The year opened with 104 depositors with £658 to their credit and closed with 106 depositors with £661 to their credit.

The surplus on 31st March stood at £160 16s. 7d.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The sea island cotton crop which is the staple crop of Montserrat was good in yield. The exports totalled 709,061 lb. of lint, valued at £53,010. Other cotton by-products, valued at £2,824, were exported.

Tomatoes exported to Canada reached 19,319 crates, valued at £3,397. 72,280 lb. of onions, valued at £400, were exported. Cattle returned £1,029 for 156 head. Other products, valued at £1,715, were exported. The total exports reached £62,375, or £3,190 less than the previous year (see list of quantities and values of principal exports).

Principal Exports, Quantities, and Values.

	1927–28. £	1928–29. £	1929–30. £	1930–31. £
Cotton lint	50,526	74,637	58,900	53,009
Other cotton products ...	4,486	2,951	2,770	2,827
Onions	6,662	1,478	1,104	400
Lime products	1,690	2,123	242	1,050
Bay oil	50	156	219	—
Papaine	858	377	47	13
Hides and skins	—	—	230	192
Live stock	795	1,529	1,335	1,106
Tomatoes	—	—	377	3,397
Other items	3,686	3,348	341	369
	£68,753	£86,599	£65,565	£62,363

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

Imports for the year 1930 amounted to £69,317, showing a decrease of £23,253 on the imports for 1929 (£92,570). This may be regarded as the normal value of imports. 1929 was an exceptional year owing to the high price paid for seed cotton, viz., 6d. per lb.

In 1929-30 an export trade in tomatoes to Canada was started with shipments valued at £377. Due to government assistance through the Peasants' Bureau this trade increased considerably during 1930-31, when the total value of shipments reached the satisfactory figure of £3,397. Planters in Montserrat have been encouraged to continue with this new enterprise and the prospects of further increase appear promising.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

The " Lady " ships of the Canadian National Line call at Montserrat both ways in the voyages between Halifax and British Guiana, and now include calls at Boston, and by this line all Canadian and the larger part of other mails are received and despatched.

A wireless station, the property of the island but operated by Imperial and International Communications, Ltd., ensures communication with the neighbouring islands, and so with the world at large.

A government telephone system radiates from Plymouth to all districts.

All places of importance over the island are linked by motor roads.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

There has been a rise in the number of criminal cases, more especially cases for hearing at the Circuit Court, but this is a natural result of the hard times through which the island is passing.

The police force is small but efficient, the average strength being a Sub-Inspector and 14 men.

The prison only houses short-term delinquents, convictions of over six months being served in the Central Prison at Antigua.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The usual repairs to roads and public buildings were carried out during the year under review and in addition the following works of importance were undertaken :—

A 3-inch supplementary pipe line of the Plymouth Water System was laid down. An extension of the Salem water system to include the districts of Hope, Flemmings, and Friths was made.

A packing shed for the handling of fruit and vegetables for export was constructed at the Botanic Station, with a floor space of 1,200 square feet. The erection of a refrigerating and ice plant was commenced under a grant from the Colonial Development Fund.

A public latrine and bath was constructed in the town of Plymouth.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The health of the Presidency during the year was uniformly good. There was no undue spread of epidemics worthy of special note. The oustanding feature of 1930 was the severe drought experienced during the first half of the year. The rainfall for the whole year was 45.55 inches as compared with 71.14 inches for 1929.

There were 480 births (39.35 per thousand) and 238 deaths (19.51 per thousand) being an increase on the former year's rate of 17.7. 286 patients were admitted to hospital during the year; the number of deaths in the wards was 10. 66 surgical operations were performed.

IX.—EDUCATION.

At the beginning of the financial year 1930-31 there were thirteen elementary schools in the island, managed by the Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Wesleyan denominations, and one by the Montserrat Company, Ltd., with the aid of grants from the Government amounting to £1,645. One of the schools situated in an outlying district, viz., St. Augustine's School, was closed at the end of June, and the remainder of the grant to that School was allocated to St. Patrick's school to assist in rebuilding it after the 1928 hurricane. In these remaining 12 schools, there were 2,826 pupils enrolled, with an average attendance of 2,149.

PRESIDENCY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

I.—FINANCE.

Revenue and expenditure for the past five years are recorded on page 4.

The Surplus Funds were £2,768 7s. 3d. and the Reserve Funds £10,281 16s. 7d. at the 31st of March, 1931. There is no Public Debt.

The value of imports and exports during the calendar year amounted to £14,360 and £11,244 respectively.

SAVINGS BANK.

Deposits in the year amounted to £1,335 19s. 1d.

Withdrawals in the year amounted to £1,087 2s. 4d.

There was a surplus in the year's working of £37 9s. 7d.

AGRICULTURAL BANK (PEASANTS).

This private concern continues to run satisfactorily.

II.—PRODUCTION.

Although the Presidency continues to maintain an expensive department, no progress has been made in agricultural methods and the peasants as usual have been left to follow their old ways with the result that crops of cane, cotton, and ground provisions show no sign of improvement. From an agricultural standpoint the year has been disappointing.

The hurricane season passed quietly. The rainfall (49.52 inches) was satisfactory and well distributed. The export of cattle, sheep, and goats to the adjacent islands continues, but the prices realized have not been very satisfactory. The travelling Commissioner of Agriculture, Mr. G. A. Jones, visited the Presidency for a few days in November.

III.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The health of the Presidency has been good, as usual. There was a slight increase in the number of cases of typhoid, the last case being discharged in January; but there has been a decline in the incidence of malaria, there being no admissions in 1930. Only 15 cases of yaws were attended for treatment at the end of March, 1931, and all, except one, had foot lesions. There was a small epidemic of whooping-cough at Virgin Gorda in January, and also a few cases of bacillary dysentery. Gastro-enteritis in children, due to incorrect diet, materially affects the death-rate; deaths in adults are usually from long-standing, chronic ailments. Births per 1,000 = 35.91. Deaths per 1,000 = 17.85.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The number of vessels leaving port was 1,472 and the arrivals 1,536. These boats take fish, provisions, and stock for sale in the neighbouring American islands.

Two British men-of-war visited the Presidency, one with His Excellency the Governor of the Colony. The American Guard Ship *Grebe* with the Governor of the American Virgin Islands visited the Presidency, also a British yacht. The new Motor Ship *Amerika* passed in and landed the Commissioner on his return from leave.

Eighty-eight emigrants left the Presidency for Santo Domingo, and 60 returned. These emigrants were inspected by the Health Officer.

The Dutch Schooner *Thelma* of Saba stranded on the Road Reef during very bad weather on the night of 21st November. The crew was saved along with most of the damaged cargo, chiefly foodstuffs. This was dealt with by the Receiver of Wreck. The schooner is a total wreck.

The Greek Steamer *Captain Rokos* was stranded on the Anegada Reef in March this year. Her cargo consisted of bones. The crew was saved and the ship's fittings and most of her stores saved and sold. The ship and cargo are a total loss.

V.—EDUCATION.

The grant in aid of education during the financial year was £639 and the total expenditure was £628 19s. 8d.

There were no prosecutions for non-attendance during the year.

School gardens were maintained at all schools.

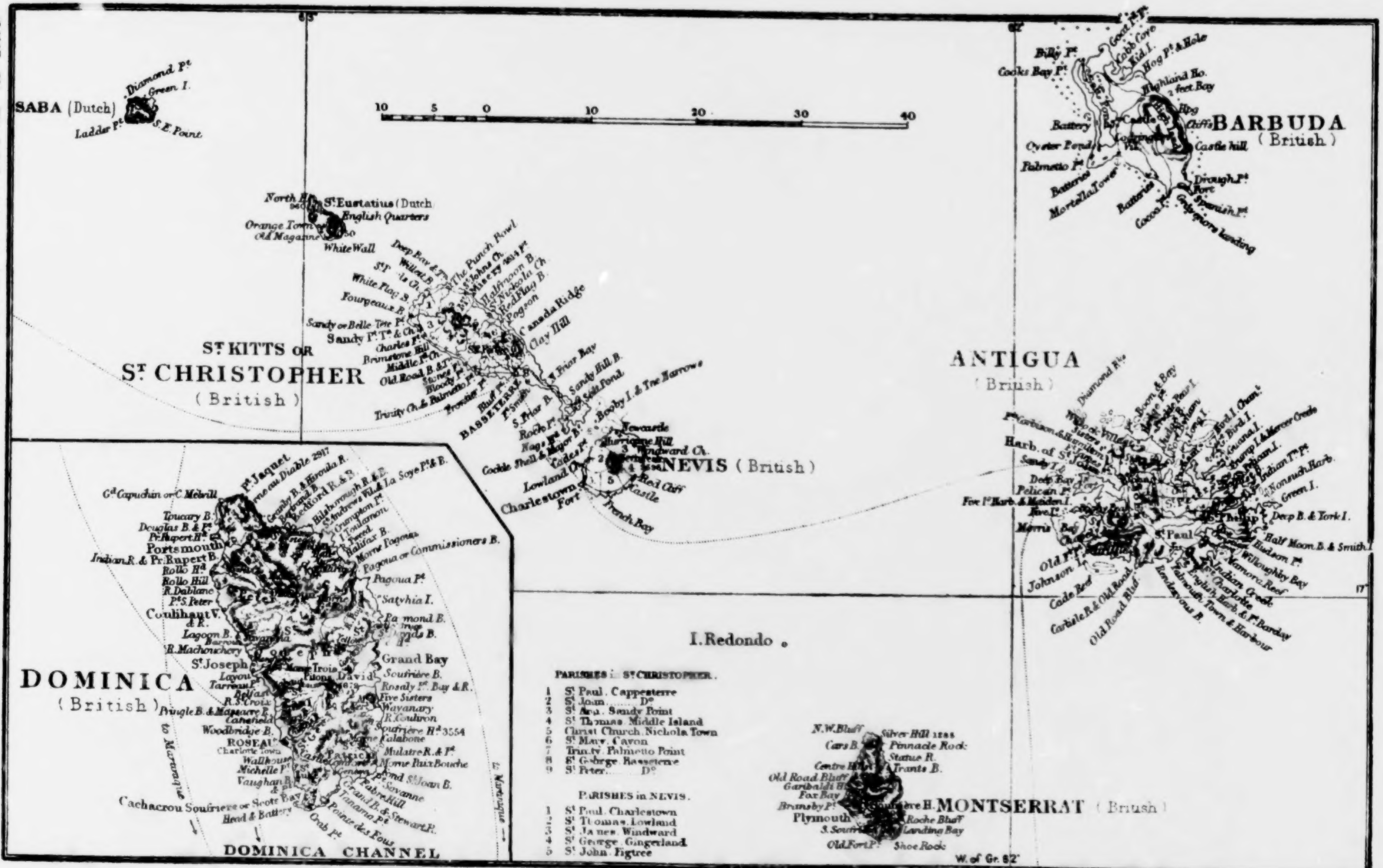
The annual examination of the schools was held in April when the acting Federal Inspector of Schools visited the island.

The number of children on the school registers was 1,231 and the average attendance 903. This is an increase on the previous year.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

His Excellency the Governor visited the Presidency on H.M.S. *Scarborough* in January. H.M.S. *Dauntless* arrived a few days later and made a short stay.

The Thorneycroft Motor Launch purchased by the Government in 1929 continues to run satisfactorily and maintains the mail service with St. Thomas. Several minor public works were carried out during the year, the principal being the erection of a petrol warehouse in reinforced concrete. The old Treasury cistern was repaired, enlarged, and re-roofed, and now holds a reserve supply of 40,000 gallons of water. The usual repairs to public buildings, jetties, and roads, etc., were carried out. Two new wells were sunk and several cleaned out and repaired.


SABA (Dutch)
Diamond Pt
Green I.
Ladder Pt
S.E. Point
St Eustatius (Dutch)
North Hill
English Quarters
Orange Town
Old Magazine
White Wall
10 5 0 10 20 30 40
BARBUDA
(British)
Billy Pt
Cocks Bay Pt
Goat Pt
Cobb Cove
Kid I.
Hog Pt & Hole
Highland Ho.
2 feet Bay
Battery
Oyster Pond
Palmetto Pt
Batteries
Martello Tower
Castle hill
Cliffs
Drough Pt
Spanish Pt
Cocoa Pt
Gallyguarra landing
St KITTS OR
St CHRISTOPHER
(British)
Deep Bay
The Punch Bowl
White Flag B.
Fourgeaux B.
Sandy or Belle Tete Pt
Sandy Pt T.
Charles Ft
Brimstone Hill
Middle Pt
Old Road B.
Stones Ft
Bloody Pt
Trinity Ch. & Palmetto Pt
Frontier Pt
Bluff Pt
BASSETERRE
Canada Ridge
Clay Hill
Friar Bay
Sandy Hill B.
Salt Pond
S. Friar B.
Booby I. & The Narrows
Rocks Pt
Nags Hd
Cockle Shell & Major B.
NEVIS (British)
Newcastle
Hurricane Hill
Windward Ch.
Red Cliff
Castle
Lowland Pt
Charlestown
Fort
French Bay
ANTIGUA
(British)
Diamond Pt
Harb. of St Johns
Sandy I.
Deep Bay
Pelican Pt
Five Islands Harb. & Maiden I.
Morris Bay
Old Pt
Johnson Pt
Cade Reef
Carlisle R. & Old Road
Old Road Bluff
Rendezvous B.
Falmouth Town & Harbour
English Harb. & Pt Barclay
Ft Charlotte
Indian Creek
Mamora Reef
Willoughby Bay
Hudson Pt
Half Moon B. & Smith I.
Deep B. & York I.
St Philip
St Paul
Green I.
Nonsuch Harb.
Indian Tn Pt
Bird I.
Guana I.
Crump I. & Mercer Creek
Long I.
17°
I. Redondo
PARISHES in St CHRISTOPHER.
1 St Paul. Cappesterre
2 St John. .... Do
3 St Ann. Sandy Point
4 St Thomas. Middle Island
5 Christ Church. Nichola Town
6 St Mary. Cayon
7 Trinity. Palmetto Point
8 St George. Basseterre
9 St Peter. .... Do
PARISHES in NEVIS.
1 St Paul. Charlestown
2 St Thomas. Lowland
3 St James. Windward
4 St George. Gingerland
5 St John. Figtree
MONTSERRAT (British)
N.W. Bluff
Silver Hill 1185
Cars B.
Pinnacle Rock
Statue R.
Trants B.
Centre Hill
Old Road Bluff
Garibaldi Hill
Fox Bay
Bransby Pt
Plymouth
Soufriere H.
S. Soufriere
Roche Bluff
Landing Bay
Old Fort Pt
Shoe Rock
W. of Gr. 62°
63°
DOMINICA
(British)
Gd Capuchin or C. Melvill
Pt Jaquet
Morne au Diable 2917
Toucary B.
Douglas B. & Pt
Pr. Rupert Hd
Portsmouth
Indian R. & Pr. Rupert B.
Rollo Hd
Rollo Hill
R. Dablano
Pt S. Peter
Coulihaut V. & R.
Lagoon B.
R. Machonchery
St Joseph
Layou
Tarreau Pt
Belfast
R. St Croix
Pringle B. & Maguare R.
Canefield
Woodbridge B.
ROSEAU
Charlotte Town
Wallhouse
Michelle Pt
Vaughan B.
Cachacrou Soufriere or Scots Bay
Head & Battery
DOMINICA CHANNEL
to Martinique
to Martinique
Bedford R. & B.
Hillsborough R. & E.
St Andrews
La Soye Pt & B.
Crompton Pt
Halifax B.
Morne Pagoua
Pagoua or Commissioners B.
Pagoua Pt
Satyhia I.
Raymond B.
Grand Bay
Soufriere B.
Rosaly Pt Bay & R.
Five Sisters
Wayanary
R. Coulivon
Soufriere Hd 3554
Mulatre R. & Pt
Morne Paux Bouche
St Joan B.
Savanne
Fabre Hill
Grand B. & Stewart R.
Tanama Pt
Pointe des Fous
Crab Pt

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THE LEEWARD ISLANDS COLONY.

GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY.

The Colony of the Leeward Islands, with a total area of 704 square miles, consists of a number of islands belonging partly to the chain of the Lesser Antilles, of which the group forms the northern end, and partly (the Virgin Islands group) to the eastern extremity of the Greater Antilles. The islands of Antigua, Barbuda, St. Christopher (St. Kitts), Nevis, and Montserrat form a fairly compact group between the 61st and 63rd degrees of West longitude and around the 17th degree of North latitude: but Dominica lies about 100 miles to the south, separated by the French island of Guadeloupe from the rest of the Colony, while Anguilla, Sombrero, and still more the Virgin group (Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, and many small islands) lie apart to the north and north-west.

St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat, and Dominica form part of the volcanic chain of the Lesser Antilles, whilst Antigua and Barbuda form part of the eastern sedimentary series of the same chain.

GOVERNMENT.

Politically, the Colony is divided into five Presidencies, Antigua (with Barbuda and Redonda), St. Christopher and Nevis (with Anguilla), Dominica, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands. These have been united and separated at various times in their history, and were finally federated in 1871 by Imperial Act 34 and 35 Vict., cap. 107. Sombrero was added to the Colony (being attached to the Virgin Islands Presidency) by Order in Council under the Colonial Boundaries Act on 10th August, 1904.

The Colony possesses Federal Executive and Legislative Councils, the members of the former and the official members (ten in number) of the latter being appointed, while the unofficial members of the Legislative Council (three each from Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis, two from Dominica, and one from Montserrat) are elected from amongst the nominated unofficial members of the legislatures of their respective Presidencies. There is also a nominated unofficial member for the Virgin Islands on the General Legislative Council.

FINANCE.

The following table shows the local revenue and expenditure of the various Presidencies of the Colony for the four financial years 1927–28 to 1930–31, and for the financial period 1st April to 31st December, 1931.

REVENUE.

	1927–28.	1928–29.	1929–30.	1930–31.	1931. Apr.-Decr.
	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	93,436	97,903	84,236	73,730	50,936
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	94,161	101,567	102,013	90,610	58,331
Dominica	60,315	67,946	70,674	63,440	45,535
Montserrat	22,426	30,330	27,389	25,176	13,434
Virgin Islands ...	9,734	9,120	6,787	5,707	4,048
	£280,072	306,866	291,099	258,663	172.284

EXPENDITURE.

	1927–28.	1928–29.	1929–30.	1930–31.	1931. Apr.-Decr.
	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	83,149	101,331	94,146	91,351	66,416
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	93,113	104,692	100,365	97,660	71,476
Dominica	80,715	80,517	92,426	71,177	54,112
Montserrat	19,986	32,278	31,007	28,805	21,758
Virgin Islands ...	7,240	9,487	6,871	7,027	5,298
	£284,203	328,305	324,815	296,020	219,060

COMMERCE.

IMPORTS.

The total value of the imports into the Leeward Islands during the year 1931 amounted to £619,104 as shown below :—

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Mont-serrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	57,019	85,175	55,860	10,886	1,568	210,508
Canada	31,501	56,380	35,228	15,476	358	138,943
Other British Possessions.	20,438	26,846	37,451	10,983	562	96,280
United States of America.	43,146	48,552	30,776	6,539	3,571	132,584
Other Foreign Countries.	3,152	24,353	8,484	1,892	2,908	40,789
Totals... ...	£155,256	241,306	167,799	45,776	8,967	619,104

EXPORTS.

The total value of the exports from the Leeward Islands during the year 1931 amounted to £286,242, as shown below :—

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Montserrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	7,616	38,409	15,697	20,257	11	81,990
Canada	34,346	87,007	3,257	3,950	—	128,560
Other British Possessions.	2,508	12,571	5,726	4,259	346	25,410
United States of America.	1,022	218	26,419	5,428	70	33,157
Other Foreign Countries.	—	1,594	7,724	12	7,795	17,125
Totals	£45,492	139,799	58,823	33,906	8,222	286,242

The principal exports of the Colony during 1931 were as follows : —

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Montserrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*
Animals—					
Cattle, No.	1	311	—	263	1,136
Goats, No.	—	58	—	9	2,281
Mules, No.	12	147	—	1	48
Cocoa (raw), lb.	—	—	218,773	100	—
Mangoes, boxes	—	200	4,006	—	—
Oranges, barrels	—	—	664	—	—
Oranges, boxes	—	—	2,550	—	—
Grapefruit, boxes	—	—	1,531	—	—
Coco-nuts, No.	—	43,900	50,355	—	9,560
Limes, green, barrels	51	—	10,867	292	30
Limes, boxes	—	—	343	—	—
Lime Juice (raw), gal.	—	—	93,255	22,840	—
Lime Juice, concentrated, gal.	—	—	3,211	—	—
Lime Oil, lb.	432	—	—	—	—
Salt, barrels	—	2,316	—	—	15
Cotton Seed Oil, gal.	9,489	—	—	5,616	—
Sugar, tons	3,704	10,576	—	—	—
Molasses, gal.	30,000	—	—	—	—
Molasses (muscovado)	5,880	589,690	—	—	—
Tobacco, lb.	—	—	4,886	—	—
Cigars, No.	—	—	1,394	—	—
Tomatoes (20 lb. crates)	365	7,595	—	16,966	—
Vegetables (other), £	—	1,098	129	134	1,019
Charcoal, £	—	143	1	—	976
Cotton (raw), lb.	131,700	245,511	—	457,898	—
Cotton seed, tons	60	388	—	263	—
Hides and skins, £	116	357	—	140	32
Turtle shell, £	30	110	291	52	5
Oils—					
Bay leaf, lb.	—	—	17,783	252	—
Distilled lime, lb.	—	—	14,446	10	—
Ecuelled lime, lb.	—	—	2,158	54	—
In solution, lb.	—	—	783	—	—
Orange, lb.	—	—	830	—	—

ANTIGUA.

I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Presidency of Antigua consists of the three islands of Antigua, Barbuda, and Redonda, the two former being the emergent portions of a bank which, it has been supposed, represents a former atoll uplifted at the south-west (the mountainous district of Antigua, where the igneous base of the bank is exposed), while Redonda is an uninhabited " skerry," 1,000 ft. in height, rising from deep water between the islands of Montserrat and Nevis.

The island of Antigua was discovered by Columbus in 1493 and named by him after a church in Seville called Sta. Maria La Antigua. It was settled by a few English from St. Kitts in 1632.

Antigua is about 107 square miles in area and is roughly oval in shape, the coast being however indented by extensive creeks and bays : there are numerous outlying islets and rocks, the largest of these being Guiana Island, about 3 miles long and separated from the main island by a channel only a few yards in width.

There are no forests and no rivers, the island's water-supply being derived from reservoirs amongst the south-west mountains, and from wells which tap underground streams from the same mountains. Droughts are frequent, and, owing to the generally clayey nature of the soil, make the ground so hard that tillage is very difficult while they last.

Barbuda (administered by a Warden) is a flat island chiefly covered by scrub, some 30 miles N.N.E. of Antigua, with which it has communication by small sailing vessels. It has no streams, water being derived from brackish wells. Owing to its lowness, it cannot be seen at any considerable distance from ships, and numerous wrecks have occurred on its shores. A striking feature of Barbuda is the great landlocked lagoon on the western (leeward) side.

Redonda, which was formerly attached to Montserrat, is merely a waterless rock, but at one time over a hundred men were employed there mining phosphates.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

Antigua is the seat of the Government of the Colony of the Leeward Islands. The local Government is administered by the Governor with the advice of the Executive Council which consists of the Colonial Secretary and the Attorney-General of the Leeward Islands, and of such persons as may be appointed, from time to time, under the Royal Instructions of 5th May, 1904. In the absence of the Governor from the Presidency the Government is administered by the Colonial Secretary as Administrator.

The Council consists of sixteen members, eight official, and eight non-official, all nominated by the Governor under the Royal Letters Patent. The Governor presides at all meetings of the Council. By Ordinance No. 7 of 1910, the duration of the Council is limited to three years.

III.—POPULATION.

The estimated population of Antigua on 31st December, 1931, was 31,235, as compared with 30,909 on 31st December of the previous year.

The births registered were 880 (Antigua 842, Barbuda 38); the birth-rate was therefore 28·17 per 1,000.

The male births were 431 and the female births 449; the females thus outnumbering the males by 18.

The deaths registered were 712 (Antigua 698, Barbuda 14); the death-rate was therefore 22·79 per 1,000.

The deaths of children under one year (exclusive of still-births) were 154 or 21·62 of the total.

During the year under review 1,494 persons arrived in the island and the departures from the island amounted to 1,336.

In view of the financial condition of the Presidency the census which was to have been taken during the year was postponed.

IV.—HEALTH.

Water-supply.—The rainfall was good and general during the months from May to December, and the reservoirs have been full. There was no anxiety in regard to the water-supply during the latter half of the year.

Child welfare.—The good work done by the Superintendent of Midwives continued throughout the year.

One creche and one dispensary were erected at Bolans.

Collection and removal of excreta.—The number of septic tanks in the city is now 59.

The villages are being equipped with adequate latrine accommodation.

Public health.—There has been no serious epidemic during the year, except the usual influenza and dysentery.

There was a sudden and small epidemic of anteriopoliomyelitis. There were six cases in St. John's and fourteen in the country. It was impossible to trace the origin of this epidemic.

Enteritis and Bacillary Dysentery.—These are the chief causes of death amongst infants and children.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—This is a most important cause of death in the tropics. This year showed a great improvement over 1930. There were only 18 deaths in 1931 as compared with 28 deaths in 1930.

Legislation.—The financial position of the Colony will not permit any further elaboration of the social services for sanitation at the present time, and as there is little likelihood of any material improvement of those circumstances in the near future, all legislation in connexion therewith involving fresh commitments will have to be deferred until happier times.

Laboratory.—A laboratory has been erected in the grounds of the Holberton Hospital and is well equipped for bacteriological and clinical pathological work. It began to function on 23rd April, 1931. The value of the laboratory has been clearly demonstrated and it is considered essential that its work should continue on the departure of the Health Officer on the termination of his contract in the summer of 1933.

In the comparatively few months during which the laboratory was functioning 425 examinations were carried out. These were of a varied nature and included blood counts and differential leucocyte counts, blood slide examinations for malaria, micro-filariae, sickle cell anaemia, etc., blood and urine culture, Widal's test and Kahn's test of blood sera, examination of material for leprosy and tubercle bacilli, examination of faeces and urine for ova, etc.

Venereal Clinic.—A venereal disease clinic was opened at the hospital (which is over a mile away from the town) on 7th May, 1931, and has been well attended. The treatment of gonorrhoea was commenced but given up owing to the difficulty in getting patients to attend regularly at a hospital so far from town. For this reason the clinic has been removed to a reconverted Government building in the centre of the town.

Yaws.—Yaws is almost entirely confined to the south-west volcanic district of the island. For the past year a vigorous campaign has been directed towards controlling this disease. The district nurses, the clergy, the school teachers, and the police are collaborating by looking out for cases and collecting them for diagnosis and treatment by the District Medical Officers concerned.

Child Welfare.—Child welfare was a bright spot in the medical administration of the island; a very fair system of antenatal care and the following up of children born during the last four or five years has been controlled by the Superintendent of Midwives, who was also responsible for the supervision of the work of the district midwives, which had gradually been extended until the duties included those of a district nurse responsible to District Medical Officers for the care of the sick. A creche, partly supported by Government funds, has also been established at St. John's.

A serious blow to this system has been given by the retrenchment of the Superintendent of Midwives owing to the state of the island's finances. The work is now carried out by District Medical Officers to the best of their ability, and the only real activities are in the creches.

In addition to that in St. John's, three creches have been opened in All Saints, Bolans, and Cedar Grove, respectively. Each, however, has accommodation for only twelve infants, and the fringe of the problem only is touched. They do, however, act as very valuable centres for propaganda. They are controlled very largely by the Health Officer as it is difficult to get local residents to take any effective interest in their management. Scattered as they are over the island, they become a tax upon the time of the Health Officer which might be spent more effectively in other directions.

General sanitation.—The work of the Sanitary Inspectors has improved out of recognition. Even with the additional Inspectors provided from the Colonial Development Fund the areas covered by each Inspector are much too large. There is a danger that when assistance from the Colonial Development Fund is no longer available there may be a relapse to the deplorable conditions of two years and more ago when there was a deficiency of Inspectors and a complete lack of their supervision. It has not been found possible to get a Chief Sanitary Inspector for the funds available, and all supervision is being done at present by the Health Officer.

Water-supplies.—The state of the water-supplies leaves much to be desired. The catchment area of the bulk of the supply is, for Antigua, highly populated. It is not protected. The only purification which the water undergoes is by slow passage through the dams en route to the "sump" from which it is pumped to the service reservoirs. The city supply, however, is passed through fairly efficient sand filter beds before distribution. Proposals for dealing with the water-supplies have been put forward, and it is hoped that Colonial Development funds will be made available to give effect to the recommendations. Nothing would have a more far-reaching effect on the health of the people.

Education.—The education of children on health matters has been put on a sound basis. The Health Officer lectured to the school teachers during the Christmas holidays of 1930–31 on the lines on which he wished them to teach the children. This work has been carried out quite well as a whole, and the children seem to take an interest in the subject.

Mr. Howell, the School Dental Officer, has visited every school in the island twice during the year, and in addition to doing necessary extractions and fillings has lectured to the children on dental hygiene. It is certain that his activities have been of the greatest value to the community.

V.—HOUSING.

In December, 1929, in response to a special application from His Excellency the Governor the Colonial Development Advisory Committee recommended a free grant of £6,500 and a loan of a similar amount, free of interest for five years, to the Government of Antigua, for the construction of concrete houses for the peasantry.

A housing committee was immediately appointed of which His Excellency became chairman and rules were made under Antigua Ordinance No. 5 of 1930—The Housing Ordinance, 1930—regarding :—

(1) The erection, alteration, and repair of houses ; and

(2) The terms and conditions on which houses may be occupied, sold, or otherwise dealt with.

Two specimen concrete houses with verandahs, out-houses, etc., were built at St. Johnston's village by May, 1930, before His Excellency the Governor went on leave, and in June, 1930, the housing committee decided that the houses should have steel frames for additional strength.

Altogether 67 houses have now been allotted to approved applicants at 10s. a month on the hire-purchase system, many of them being allotted to peasants holding land under the Land Settlement Scheme, and others to carpenters, masons, plumbers, and factory and other workers.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The two main industries in Antigua are sugar and sea island cotton, and these are the only industries for which actual production figures are available.

There are two factories manufacturing grey crystals, the Antigua Sugar Factory at Gunthorpes and the Bendals Factory. In both cases the bulk of the cane is supplied by contracting plantations, although there is a considerable and increasing production on the part of peasant proprietors.

There is one factory producing muscovado and one fancy molasses. Both these factories are run in connexion with the plantations on which they are situated.

There is one cotton ginnery in Antigua : this deals both with cotton grown on estates and cotton grown by peasants, which latter forms a considerable portion of the total crop. Estate cotton is ginned and baled at the expense of the owner and shipped on his behalf ; peasants' cotton is purchased at the ginnery on a co-operative basis, the peasant being paid a first payment based on the United Kingdom market price and receiving as a bonus 75 per cent. of any profits made on the sale of the cotton by the ginnery.

Sugar.—The rainfall during 1930 was the lowest experienced during the period for which rainfall records have been kept, i.e., since 1874, the average for the whole island being only 25·51 inches. As a result the sugar crop reaped in 1931 was very small, the total production being :—grey crystals, 4,977 tons, muscovado sugar 69,500 lbs., and fancy molasses or cane syrup 13,230 gallons.

Cotton.—The 1931 cotton crop was reaped from approximately 1,500 acres. The severe drought in 1930 and during the early months of 1931 together with damage from the cotton caterpillar seriously affected the yield. The total production was 416 bales of clean lint (124,842 lb.) and 8 bales of stains (2,458 lb.).

Limes.—The lime crop suffered severely from the drought in 1930 and early in 1931, but towards the end of the year the condition of the trees showed considerable improvement.

During recent years the area under limes has gradually increased, but it will be some years before the newly planted trees come into bearing.

Vegetables.—An attempt has been made to establish a co-operative vegetable industry, primarily for export to the Canadian winter market.

Sweet potatoes, yams, eddoes, and cassava are the chief vegetable foods of the working classes, and are grown on a considerable scale, but no production figures are available. These provision crops are cultivated both on estates and by peasants.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The following table shows the value of the imports and exports of the Presidency of Antigua during the last three years :—

	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£
Imports	214,978	184,203	155,256
Exports	139,249	185,381	46,576

It will be seen that there has been a marked decrease in the imports and exports during the year 1931.

Of the total imports of £155,256 during 1931, £57,019 were from the United Kingdom as compared with £55,801 in 1930 ; £31,501 from Canada as against £44,047 in 1930 ; and £43,146 from the United States of America as against £54,473 in the previous year.

The principal importations were as follows :—

	1930.	1931.
	£	£
Flour	19,865	16,260
Cornmeal	13,541	10,138
Dried fish	6,260	3,817
Cotton goods	11,916	10,696
Pitch pine lumber	5,557	1,007
White pine lumber	4,490	2,945
Machinery	4,021	8,692
Hardware	2,659	4,659

The domestic exports for 1931 amounted to £45,492 and were as follows :—

To	£
United Kingdom	7,616
Canada	34,346
Bermuda	345
United States of America	1,022
British West Indies	59
Leeward Islands	2,104
	£45,492

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The following are the average rates of wages of estate labourers and Government employees :—

Men, 1s. to 1s. 2d. a day.
Women, 6d. to 8d. a day.
Carpenters, 3s. 3d. to 3s. 6d. a day.
Masons, 3s. 3d. to 4s. a day.
Headmen, 10s. to 14s. a week.
Ploughmen, 1s. 6d. a day.
Plough Drivers, 1s. 4d. a day.

The following wages are paid to workmen at the Antigua Sugar Factory, Limited :—

Engine Drivers, 2s. to 2s. 4d. a day.
Firemen, 2s. 4d. to 2s. 6d. a day.
Blacksmiths, 3s. a day.

Under the Medical and Poor Relief Ordinance every estate of 50 acres and over is compelled to provide free medical attendance for its resident labourers. Labourers on estates also receive certain privileges, such as houses and plots of land.

The cost of living for officials, etc., has dropped slightly in recent years, but is still high when compared with the cost of living during pre-war days. A higher standard of living is being maintained which adds to the cost of living.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

(*a*) *Elementary Education.*—For the great majority of children there are 20 Government schools and two denominational schools receiving Government aid. In addition there are six private schools run either by religious bodies or by private individuals for children varying in ages from 5 to 9 years.

The training of teachers for the primary schools is arranged and paid for by the Government, and rules governing the conduct of schools, and the syllabus of instruction, are laid down in a Code of Regulations made by the Governor in Council.

A system of compulsory education enforces attendance at school, and though not carried out in its entirety, is responsible for keeping about 60 per cent. of the numbers enrolled in attendance at the schools.

(*b*) *Secondary Education.*—This branch is carried on by private enterprise receiving Government grants-in-aid. There are three such schools, the Antigua Grammar School, the Girls' High School and the Thomas Oliver Robinson Memorial School. These schools prepare candidates for the Local Examinations of the University of Cambridge with a Leeward Islands scholarship competed for annually. The scholarship is a Government one of the annual value of £200 tenable for three years, and may be extended to five years in consideration of the profession being taken.

The Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, under Moravian auspices, trains women teachers for the primary schools. The candidates are selected from the schools where they serve an apprenticeship for at least three years as pupil teachers, and are given a two years' course at the College. On graduation they receive appointments as assistant teachers and by zeal and fidelity the ablest among them are promoted to head teacherships. Male teachers are trained at the Rawle Training Institute, Codrington College, Barbados.

(*c*) *Technical Education.*—No real start along definite lines has as yet been made in connexion with technical education, but certain head teachers in primary schools, on their own initiative and with the help of the Education Department, are conducting classes in manual instruction and domestic science with a degree of success.

(*d*) *University Education.*—An educational ladder so far has been established in that a boy or girl may, by means of a Government scholarship, pass from the elementary schools through the secondary schools to a university.

(*e*) *Evening Classes.*—An attempt has been made by Toc H to open an evening class to help young men who failed to use their earlier opportunities or who had none at all, as well as to further the education of those who are debarred from doing so through lack of means.

The Government has placed at the disposal of Toc H one of its school buildings, and provides the lighting and certain appliances.

SOCIAL SERVICES.

(*a*) Creches have been established in the city of St. John's, and in several of the country villages, where mothers may leave their young children to be fed and taken care of during the day while they are away at their work.

(*b*) There are several lodges and friendly societies in the island whose object is to raise funds by means of subscriptions, etc., so as to be able to care for their members during sickness and old age and to bury their dead. Prominent among these lodges are branches of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows.

Freemasonry is also represented by two lodges of that Order.

Relief in the event of accident or sickness can be obtained locally by securing policies in certain insurance companies operating in the island.

RECREATION, ETC.

The public park adjoining the eastern part of the city furnishes means of recreation for children and adults. Various cricket clubs have their grounds, and there are several lawn tennis clubs. There is a golf course at Cassada Garden about two miles east of St. John's. Fishing is possible and fairly well patronized in several places off the coast.

The love of music, art, and drama is pronounced and is evidenced in the good attendance obtainable at entertainments when the best talent is on exhibition.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

The island of Antigua is a port of call of the Canadian National Steamships, Limited, subsidized by the Canadian Government and the several Colonial Governments which are parties to the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement, 1925. The island is also visited by steamers of the Furness, Bermuda, Ocean, Dominion, and Western Ocean lines, and by cargo steamers of the Canadian National Steamships. A passenger and cargo steamer of the Harrison Line proceeds regularly from London every four weeks direct to Antigua, and these ships call sometimes on the return journey to London.

St. John's, Antigua, is an airport, served by Pan American Airways, Inc.

Sailing vessels proceed frequently between Antigua and Montserrat, and between Antigua and Barbuda.

Mails to and from Europe are sent via the United States of America or Barbados, save when there is a direct steamer to or from England. Parcels are only dealt with at the shipping ports.

Imperial postal orders are issued and paid in the island, and money orders are exchanged direct with Great Britain, Canada, the United States of America, British West Indies, Bermuda, and British Guiana.

Telegraphic communication is maintained by means of wireless and cable. The wireless station in Antigua is owned by Imperial and International Communications, Limited.

There are about 120 miles of roads in Antigua, maintained by the Government. There are no railways in the island for the conveyance of passengers, but there are two railways operated by the Antigua Sugar Factory, Limited, and the Bendals Sugar Factory, Limited, for the conveyance of canes and sugar to and from those factories.

Three omnibuses are maintained by Mr. Jose Anjo, and these run, according to schedule, to Fort James—the Lido of the West Indies—and to the principal towns and villages in the country districts.

There are 18 sub-post offices in the Presidency and three telephone exchanges, viz., at St. John's, Parham, and All Saints.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

BANKING.

Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas) formerly the Colonial Bank, and the Royal Bank of Canada have branches at St. John's, Antigua.

They each had a $5·00 note issue of approximately $50,000 in circulation in 1931.

Both Banks have Savings Departments, and each pays 3 per cent. interest on deposits.

The usual rate of interest charged by Banks on overdrafts is 8 per cent. compound.

Government Savings Bank.—There is a Government Savings Bank in St. John's, Antigua. The following is a comparative statement of transactions for the past three years :—

Year.	*Amount of deposits during the year.*			*Amount of withdrawals during the year.*			*Number of depositors at end of year.*	*Rate of interest paid per annum.*	*Amount standing to credit of depositors.*		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		per cent.	£	s.	d.
1929–30	4,928	18	8	5,567	8	4	670	3	18,581	1	11
1930–31	3,686	3	0	5,805	15	1	640	3	16,461	9	10
Apr.–Dec. 1931 ...	1,040	13	2	1,071	6	4	640	3	15,341	6	6

CURRENCY.

All coins of the United Kingdom are used as currency at face value. By an Order in Council issued in 1898, the Imperial Coinage Act was applied to the Colony of the Leeward Islands, and fixed the amounts for legal tender as follows :—

(1) In the case of gold coins for the payment of any amount.

(2) In the case of silver coins for the payment of an amount not exceeding forty shillings.

(3) In the case of bronze coins for a payment of an amount not exceeding one shilling, but for no greater amount.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Imperial weights and measures are in use in the Presidency.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The staff of this Department consists of a Superintendent of Public Works, two Overseers of Roads, a Clerk, and a Storekeeper, besides subordinate employees.

The department is responsible for the construction, maintenance and improvement of public buildings, roads, and water-works. Owing to the general financial depression, public works in 1931, with the exception of those under the Colonial Development Schemes, consisted of ordinary maintenance and repair work.

In addition to the above staff a Public Works Engineer and a Land Surveyor are employed with funds provided for Colonial Development Schemes.

The following Colonial Development Schemes are being undertaken :—

> The construction of concrete houses for the peasantry of Antigua ;
>
> The laying of concrete drains in the country villages ;
>
> The erection of creches and dispensaries in various country villages, etc.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

JUSTICE.

The Presidency is the headquarters of the Chief Justice of the Colony and forms one circuit of the Supreme Court, sessions of which are held three times a year.

There is one magistrate in Antigua (holding courts at St. John's, Bolans, All Saints, and Parham), while the Warden of Barbuda is magistrate for that island.

POLICE.

The police are under the command of the Chief Inspector for the Colony, whose headquarters are at St. John's and under whom is a Sub-Inspector permanently stationed in the Presidency. There are police stations at St. John's and the principal villages, and a constable is stationed in Barbuda.

PRISONS.

The Antigua prison is the central prison for the Colony to which are sent offenders sentenced in the other Presidencies to long terms of imprisonment. 204 prisoners (146 males and 58 females) were admitted during the period from 1st April to 31st December, 1931.

The accommodation of the prison is as follows :—

	Males.	*Females.*
Separate cells	72	20
Association cells	7 to hold 35	3 to hold 9
Infirmary ward	1 to hold 9	1 to hold 3

Toc H have continued with their efforts to help the more illiterate prisoners and three of their members take classes.

Every encouragement is given to prisoners to practise their trades, and to learn such trades as carpentering, tin-smithing, baking, tailoring, and bootmaking, as well as gardening and painting.

St. John's Training School.—There is a reformatory known as the St. John's Training School, to which boys from all the Presidencies are sent.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The following is a list of the Ordinances passed in Antigua during the year 1931 :—

No.	*Short Title.*
1.	The Cotton Planting (Regulation) Ordinance, 1931.
2.	The Motor Vehicles Plying for Hire Ordinance, 1928, Amendment Ordinance, 1931.
3.	The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, 1931.
4.	The Constitution Ordinance, 1910, Amendment Ordinance, 1931.
5.	The Marriages (Validating) Ordinance, 1931.
6.	The Cinematographs (General Legislature Competency) Ordinance, 1931.
7.	The Denominational School Teachers Pension Ordinance, 1931.
8.	The Motor Vehicle Ordinance, 1931.
9.	The Appropriation Ordinance, 1931.
10.	The Animal Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.

The following is a list of the Rules and Regulations made during the year 1931 :—

The Housing Rules, 1931.

The Dockyard Charges Amendment Order, 1931.

The Fort James (Season Tickets) Regulations, 1931.

The Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, 1926 (Application) Order, 1931.

The Fort James (Season Tickets) (No. 2) Regulations, 1931.

The Quarantine Station Regulations, 1931.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The financial period 1st April to 31st December, 1931, opened with an accumulated deficit of £11,464.

The actual ordinary revenue for the nine months ending 31st December, 1931, was £50,936, being £6,080 below the estimate, and the actual ordinary expenditure was £66,416, being £758 in excess of the estimate.

The deficit for the period 1st April to 31st December, 1931, was £15,480.

During the 9 months ending 31st December, 1931, His Majesty's Government provided £6,000 in aid of administration, £12,000 for relief of unemployed, and £18,185 for financing schemes approved by the Colonial Development Advisory Committee. Expenditure on relief amounted to £11,626, and on Colonial Development Schemes to £11,873 at 31st December, 1931.

DEBT.

The public debt at 31st December, 1931, was £145,000. No new loans were raised during the period. The accumulated sinking funds amounted to £100,997 12s. 9d.

CUSTOMS TARIFF.

During the period 1st April to 31st December, 1931, the following amendments were made in the rates of Customs duties on the articles specified :—

	Full duty.	*Preferential.*
Item 66. Oils—		
(*g*) Motor spirit including benzine, gasolene, naphtha, and petrol spirits generally.	Increased from 4d. per gal. to 7d. per gal.	Increased from 2d. per gal. to 5d. per gal.
Item 87. Sugar—		
(*a*) Refined	Increased from 4s. per 100 lb. to 8s. 4d. per 100 lb.	Unchanged at 2s. per 100 lb.
(*b*) Unrefined	Increased from 3s. per 100 lb. to 8s. 4d. per 100 lb.	Unchanged at 1s. 6d. per 100 lb.
Item 89. Tobacco and Snuff—	*Per lb. from*	*Per lb. from*
(*b*) Cigars if over 6s. per 100 in value.	7s. 6d. to 10s.	5s. 6d. to 7s. 6d.
Under 6s. per 100 ...	4s. 6d. to 6s. 3d.	3s. 6d. to 4s. 2d.
(*c*) Cigarettes	6s. to 8s. 4d.	4s. 6d. to 6s. 3d.
(*d*) Snuff	6s. to 8s. 4d.	4s. to 6s. 3d.
(*e*) Other manufactuerd...	6s. to 7s. 6d.	4s. to 5s.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Presidency of Saint Christopher and Nevis (" St. Kitts-Nevis ") consists of the two volcanic islands of St. Christopher (St. Kitts) and Nevis, and the limestone island of Anguilla. The capital of the Presidency is Basseterre in St. Kitts, latitude 17° 18′ N. and longitude 62° 43′ W. The mountain axis of St. Kitts and Nevis runs N.W.–S.E., the former being the more northerly and, except for the small Dutch islands of St. Eustatius and Saba, the northern termination of the partly submerged volcanic mountain range of the Lesser Antilles. Anguilla, running N.E.–S.W., lies some 70 miles N.N.E. of St. Kitts and forms part, with St. Martin and St. Bartholomew, of a separate island-group.

The two volcanic islands are mountainous (Mt. Misery, St. Kitts, 3,711 feet ; Nevis Peak, about 3,596 feet) and the upper slopes are covered with dense forest, tree ferns, and palms. The low lands are cultivated or in pasture. The highest point of Anguilla is only 213 feet above the sea. The island is generally low-lying, and is covered by low-growing scrub, except where the land is cultivated for cotton or ground provisions.

The total area of the three islands is 152 square miles. St. Kitts measures 68 square miles ; Nevis 50 square miles ; and Anguilla 34 square miles.

St. Kitts and Nevis were discovered by Columbus in 1493, and an English settlement (the first in the West Indies), was established in the former in 1623, whence the latter was colonized in 1628. A French settlement was established in St. Kitts about 1625, and, after the two nations had combined to expel the Carib Indians (1629) the island was divided, the French taking the two ends, which have since been known as Basseterre and Capisterre. There was frequent warfare between the French and English in St. Kitts, the great siege of Brimstone Hill, " The Gibraltar of the West Indies," occurring in 1782. The islands have been uninterruptedly British since 1783, the last French invasion occurring, however, in 1805. Two great names are associated with Nevis, Alexander Hamilton, the founder of the American Constitution, who was born there, and Admiral Lord Nelson, whose marriage took place there in 1787.

The date of discovery of Anguilla is uncertain. It has remained British since its colonization, about 1650, although invaded at times by the French and Caribs. The language of the whole Presidency is English.

The climate, for a tropical one, is decidedly healthy. The highest temperature in the shade is about 88°, the lowest 66°, and the mean average about 76°.

The average rainfall in St. Kitts for the year 1931 was 57·60 inches.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government is administered by an Administrator who is subordinate to the Governor of the Leeward Islands Colony.

He is advised by an Executive Council consisting of certain *ex officio* members and such other persons as His Majesty may from time to time appoint. Both the Governor and the Administrator are *ex officio* members.

There is a Legislative Council consisting of seven official and seven nominated unofficial members, besides the Governor and Administrator. Of the unofficial members not more than six are from the people of St. Kitts and Anguilla, and one at least from the people of Nevis.

The Governor, or in his absence, the Administrator, or, in the absence of both of them, a member of the Council appointed in writing, presides, and the President of the Council has an original and a casting vote.

During the year Mr. T. C. Macnaghten, C.M.G., C.B.E., retired (4th April, 1931) and was succeeded by Mr. D. R. Stewart, C.M.G. (19th July, 1931), late Colonial Secretary, Barbados.

III.—POPULATION.

Population,	St. Kitts	22,415	(census 1921)	329·6 p.s.m.
„	Nevis	11,569	„ „	231·4 „
„	Anguilla	4,230	„ „	124·4 „
		38,214		

There was no census taken in 1931 of the population of the Presidency; therefore only an estimated population based on the census of 1921 can be given.

The estimated population at the end of the year 1931 was, St. Kitts, 18,446; Nevis, 12,683; Anguilla, 4,938; making a total of 36,067 for the whole Presidency and showing an increase of 274 over the estimated population of the previous year.

So far as St. Kitts and Nevis are concerned, the estimate of population is fairly accurate, but there are no records of the emigration and immigration from and to Anguilla where the male population are frequently emigrating to other islands, especially Santo Domingo, in search of work, and many of whom return home in the "out of crop" season.

The population of these islands can be roughly divided into three classes—viz., those of pure European extraction numbering about three to four hundred, the educated coloured class numbering about 7,000, and the labouring class, white, coloured, and black about 28,583.

There are three small towns in the Presidency—Basseterre, St. Kitts, with a population of about 8,000; Sandy Point, St. Kitts, with a population of about 1,200 ; and Charlestown, Nevis, with a population about the same as that of Sandy Point. These three small towns are situated on the sea-coast and are ports of call. There are numerous villages scattered along the main roads of the islands of St. Kitts and Nevis.

The increase of births over deaths during the past year amounted to 404 as compared with the increase of 213 during the year 1930, but emigration during the year was in excess of immigration by 126, while in 1930 the immigration showed an increase of 221 over emigration.

The births during the year 1930 and 1931 and the respective birth-rates were as follows :—

	1930.		1931.	
	Live Births.	*Birth-rate per* 1,000.	*Live Births.*	*Birth-rate per* 1,000.
St. Kitts ...	790	43·9	722	39·4
Nevis ...	327	25·9	323	25·4
Anguilla ...	146	30·4	131	26·9

While the deaths (exclusive of still-births) and death-rates were :—

	1930.		1931.	
	Deaths.	*Death-rate per* 1,000.	*Deaths.*	*Death-rate per* 1,000.
St. Kitts ...	671	37·2	506	27·6
Nevis ...	296	24·2	217	17·1
Anguilla ...	84	17·5	49	10·0

These figures show a lower birth-rate as well as a lower death-rate for the year 1931.

The returns of the still-births in the three islands for the year are given and compared with those of 1930.

	1930.	1931.
St. Kitts ...	61	64
Nevis	31	19
Anguilla ...	10	7

showing a decrease of 12 for the whole Presidency.

During the year 102 marriages were celebrated in St. Kitts, 40 in Nevis, and 49 in Anguilla.

Infant mortality considered as the number of deaths of infants under one year to every thousand of living births is shown below and compared with the three previous years.

	No. of deaths under one year.				*Rate per* 1,000 *of living births.*			
	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
St. Kitts	259	153	147	134	308·3	200·2	186·0	185·5
Nevis	88	54	51	60	286·6	203·7	155·9	185·7
Anguilla	16	9	19	12	114·2	70·8	130·1	91·6
Total	363	216	217	206	280·3	158·0	171·8	175·1

It is gratifying to note the steady decrease which has taken place in St. Kitts where infant welfare work is practically entirely supported by a Government grant-in-aid of £375 a year, and is conducted through six creches in different parts of the island.

IV.—HEALTH.

On 21st November there arrived in the Colony to succeed Dr. P. Hope-Falkner, the late Public Health Officer provided at the expense of the Colonial Development Fund, Dr. E. P. Minett, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. and H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. He has lost no time in acquainting himself with local conditions, and writes as follows :—

" The scavenging of the town of Basseterre (St. Kitts) is exceptionally well done and a newcomer is immediately impressed with the cleanliness of the streets.

" The method of refuse disposal at present in use, consisting of dumps supplied by the neighbouring estates, is a good one for an agricultural country and I have carefully examined these dumps for evidence of extensive fly breeding without results.

" The surface drainage of the streets is exceptionally good where they have been graded and oiled; the newer concrete drains are of a good and modern pattern and very suitable for the type of road.

" As might be expected the scavenging of the villages is not to be compared with that of the towns, though in some villages it is distinctly good.

" Most of the villages are well placed as regards sites and drainage. In some cases they were obviously placed in ravines, because the land was unsuitable for cultivation, but this to my mind is not a drawback as these ravines provide excellent drainage for the land around the houses. There appears to be little attempt at any regular plan for the villages, but either by accident or design there is very little overcrowding of tenements. Usually the houses have plenty of space around them as compared with most tropical villages. Most of the villages are provided with a public water supply and are fortunate in having a pipe-borne water-supply.

" The town of Charlestown, Nevis, was very well scavenged and had a clean and well-kept appearance. The town is too spread out to permit of much serious overcrowding of tenements. Two open spaces planted with trees and shrubs and provided with seats greatly improve the look of the town.

" Most of the villages of Nevis are very scattered in character, so that although the buildings themselves are badly in need of repair, there is very little overcrowding of tenements.

" The town enjoys a piped water-supply, and most of the villages are also provided with stand-pipes.

" The water-supply of St. Kitts is good, but that of Nevis and Anguilla is scanty especially in the dry season."

The teaching of elementary hygiene in the schools has been done for some years past, and it is contemplated by the Medical Officer of Health to have occasional short lectures given in addition to the school teaching.

The more prevalent diseases met with are gastro-enteritis and framboesia (yaws) in children, and enteric fever, dysentery, syphilis, and filaria in adults, and in Nevis and Anguilla, malaria.

The cases of gastro-enteritis in children are chiefly due to faulty feeding by the mothers. Since the infant welfare movement was started and creches under the supervision of the District Matron were provided, infant mortality has steadily decreased from 409·6 per 1,000 living births in 1920 in St. Kitts to 185·5 in 1931.

The eradication of yaws by the use of various drugs and more especially in later years by injections with one form or another of the arseniates seems to be a probability in time to come.

With the improved sanitation of late years, enteric fever and dysentery—the two fly-borne diseases—have, on the whole, decreased though there were more cases recorded in 1931 than in 1930.

A great amount of work has been done in trying to cure those afflicted with syphilis, but in order to treat the greatest possible number of these cases some form of legislation may be necessary.

Filarial fever which was so prevalent in St. Kitts several years ago is evidently on the decrease. To prevent fresh cases arising, the filling up of swamps and puddles is essential. During 1931 an experiment was made by depositing bagasse, the residue of crushed sugar-cane after the juice has been extracted, on some swampy lands, the result going to show that the pools and puddles so treated contained no mosquito larvae. Further experiments will be carried on in 1932.

Malaria fever in Nevis, where the anopheles mosquito is found, is still very prevalent. In Anguilla the cases are among those labourers who have returned from Santo Domingo. The cases seen in St. Kitts, where there are no anopheles mosquitos at present to be found, are imported ones.

There are four District Medical Officers in St. Kitts, two in Nevis, and one in Anguilla. The Medical Officer of Health for the Presidency resides in St. Kitts.

In St. Kitts the Cunningham Hospital with 87 beds and 6 maternity beds is sufficient for the needs of the island. There is a small emergency hospital, Pogson Hospital, with 12 beds and 4 maternity beds in Sandy Point about eleven miles from Basseterre, and in the same district there is the leper home with 46 inmates at present. The Alexandra Hospital of Charlestown, Nevis, has between 30 and 40 beds, including 3 maternity beds, and in Anguilla there is a small cottage hospital of 8 beds which so far has never been full.

There are three European Sisters in the Presidency. Two are in charge of hospitals and the third is responsible for the training and supervision of midwives, and is in charge of the infant welfare of the island.

V.—HOUSING.

Most estates provide wooden houses which are rent free to their reliable labourers.

During the past two years 56 model concrete houses have been built for labourers and artisans at Basseterre and Sandy Point, with assistance from the Colonial Development Fund, £13,000 being made available for the purpose, one-half as a loan and one-half as a free grant.

These cottages consist of three rooms and an entrance verandah. The cost of each cottage including outbuildings and fences, but excluding land, is £122.

Those in Basseterre are sold on a rental basis of 10s. a month and those at Sandy Point at 11s. 2d. a month. In each case payments continue for a period of 15 years.

The larger residences and places of business in these islands are of two storeys, the lower one generally of stone, and the upper of wood. These buildings are provided with hurricane shutters as the islands are almost in the centre of the hurricane zone.

Every yard is under sanitary supervision and the sanitary laws are enforced.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Sugar.—The 1931 crop was seriously affected by the severe drought. The average rainfall of the island was 45·98 inches, nearly eight inches less than the average for the past seventeen years.

The sugar-cane production was 98,228 tons from 6,096 acres, as compared with 150,937 tons in 1930. The average yield per acre was 16 tons as against 22 tons in the previous year.

The output of the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory was 12,021 tons of grey crystal sugar as compared with 18,680 tons in 1930. The value of the sugar was £114,332 and of the molasses produced £3,603. 10,579 tons of sugar were exported and the balance retained in the island for local consumption. The sugar was marketed at an average price of £9 10s. 2d. per ton, which was 16s. less than the price obtained in 1930.

In Nevis a small quantity of muscovado sugar was produced from peasants' canes for local consumption.

Cotton.—The area under this crop was greatly curtailed owing to unsatisfactory market conditions. Unfavourable weather and insect pests reduced the output considerably. The quantities of lint produced in the Presidency are shown in the following table :—

	Acres.	*Lb. lint.*
St. Kitts...	1,170	129,894
Nevis	1,500	159,102
Anguilla	400	32,244
Totals ...	3,070	321,240

The production in 1930 was 699,000 lb. lint from approximately 5,000 acres. At the end of the year there was a large quantity of cotton in England unsold. 245,511 lb. of cotton were exported as against 778,761 lb. in 1930.

Vegetables.—Efforts to develop an export trade in green vegetables during the winter months were continued. The grading and packing of produce were carried out under Government supervision and the quantities exported are shown in the following table :—

	St. Kitts.		Nevis.	
	Crates.	*lb.*	*Crates.*	*lb.*
Tomatoes	4,525	91,146	1,293	25,860
String Beans	108	1,704	9	117
Egg Plants	12	240	122	3,103
Cucumbers	4	78	—	—
English Potatoes ...	169	8,450	—	—

The gross value of this produce was approximately £2,000, and the net value to the producer £1,000.

Live Stock.—The live stock industry of Nevis suffered a severe set back during the year. A large number of animals died during the prolonged drought of 1930 from lack of sufficient food, and prices for both " butcher " and " working " animals fell very low in 1931.

General.—The sugar-cane industry is carried on in St. Kitts by the employment of wage labourers on estates. There are no peasant farmers. There is only one central factory on the island—the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory. All sugar-producing areas are connected to this factory by a narrow-gauge railway line encircling the island. The normal rated capacity of the factory is 180,000 tons of cane, equivalent to about 20,000 tons of sugar.

Sea island cotton is grown as a catch crop with cane.

All estates have a certain number of contract labourers, who live in estate houses and receive free medical attendance and a free plot of land for growing ground provisions and vegetables.

In Nevis and Anguilla there is practically no cultivation carried on by estates, the land being worked by peasants. Some of these own their own plots of land and others rent land, while others work the land and give a share of the produce as rent. In Nevis there are about 273 peasant proprietors owning approximately 330 acres of land. The peasants produce considerable quantities of ground provisions which find a ready market in St. Kitts. They have also started the growing of vegetables for export to Canada during the winter months, but markets are discouraging.

There are Government agricultural instructors in Nevis and Anguilla who pay frequent visits to peasant holdings and endeavour to improve the methods of agriculture.

The Government has recently started a land-settlement scheme in Nevis.

VII.—COMMERCE.

Imports for 1931 were valued at £241,276, and exports at £169,733. Comparative figures for three years together with direction of trade are as follows :—

IMPORTS.

	1929.		1930.		1931.	
Country from which imported.	*Value in* £	*Per cent.*	*Value in* £	*Per cent.*	*Value in* £	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom ...	105,535	30·12	93,681	32·73	85,175	35·30
Canada	97,586	27·85	73,063	25·52	56,380	23·36
Barbados	6,005	1·71	4,701	1·64	2,677	1·11
British Guiana	3,783	1·08	3,653	1·28	5,527	2·29
India	8,052	2·30	10,171	3·55	5,386	2·22
Trinidad	1,261	·36	9,110	3·18	9,508	3·94
Leeward Islands	13,647	3·90	1,389	·48	1,974	·82
Other British Possessions	2.499	·71	1,402	·49	1,774	·74
Total British Possessions	132,833		103,489		83,226	
United States of America	83,199	23·74	67,097	23·44	48,522	20·12
France	2,331	6·71	1,859	·65	2,416	1·01
Germany	3,200	·91	3,779	1·32	5,583	2·31
Holland	8,381	2·39	7,954	2·78	7,411	3·07
Other Foreign Countries	14,958	4·26	8,405	2·94	8,943	3·71
Total Foreign Countries	112,069		89,094		72,875	
Total Imports ...	350,437		286,264		241,276	

EXPORTS.

	1929.		1930.		1931.	
Country to which exported.	*Value in* £	*Per cent.*	*Value in* £	*Per cent.*	*Value in* £	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom	199,346	78·38	105,420	36·01	38,547	22·70
Canada	14,713	5·78	139,009	47·49	87,007	51·27
Other parts of the British Empire.	14,980	5·89	14,716	5·03	14,027	8·26
United States of America ...	210	·08	450	·15	1,491	·88
Other Foreign Countries ...	25,095	9·87	33,123	11·23	28,661	16·90
Total Exports ...	254,344		292,718		169,733	

The exchange situation existing between the Colony and the United States and Canada has resulted in the diversion of trade from both the United States and Canada to the United Kingdom, and orders for goods from England are increasing as a consequence.

Local prices of food increased slightly after October owing to advance rates of exchange with the United States of America and Canada from which places flour, fish, and corn-meal are generally procured.

Shipping entered and cleared in 1931 as compared with the past three years is as follows :—

SHIPPING.

Steamers entered and cleared :—

Year.	*Number.*	*British Tonnage.*	*Number.*	*Foreign Tonnage.*	*Number.*	*Total Tonnage.*
1929	386	1,391,848	107	139,520	493	1,531,368
1930	412	1,538,614	236	502,329	648	2,040,943
1931	398	1,546,138	301	465,211	699	2,011,349

Sailing vessels entered and cleared :—

Year.	*Number.*	*British Tonnage.*	*Number.*	*Foreign Tonnage.*	*Number.*	*Total Tonnage.*
1929	1,650	21,232	259	19,953	1,909	41,185
1930	2,057	24,457	187	15,718	2,244	40,175
1931	2,548	23,732	115	10,234	2,663	33,966

Tonnage of shipping entered and cleared :—

	British Tonnage.	*Foreign Tonnage.*	*Total Tonnage.*
1929	1,412,080	159,473	1,571,553
1930	1,563,071	518,042	2,081,113
1931	1,569,870	475,445	2,045,315

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The following are the average rates of wages of estate labourers and Government employees :—

Men...	1s. 2d. to 2s. per day.
Women	8d. to 1s. ,,
Carpenters, masons, and factory mechanics.	4s. to 6s. ,,

On estates, nearly all work is done by task, and labourers often do two tasks per day. During the cane crop the men earn about 18s. per week. Estate labourers also receive certain privileges such as free medical attendance, houses, and plots of land. For a day's pay a labourer is supposed to do eight hours' work.

The cost of living generally has fallen somewhat within recent years but it is still very high when compared with the cost during pre-war days.

During 1931, however, owing to adverse trade conditions with the United States of America and Canada, the cost of certain foodstuffs, e.g., corn-meal, was increased by ½d. per lb.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

For secondary education there are in St. Kitts a grammar school for boys (owned by Government), a high school for girls (subsidized by Government), and a convent high school, and there is a mixed school in Nevis (subsidized by Government). The standard aimed at is that of the Cambridge school certificate.

There are sixteen primary schools in St. Kitts (including 3 for infants, 2 for boys, 2 for girls, and the rest mixed), ten in Nevis (1 for infants, 2 for boys, and 2 for girls), and five in Anguilla.

There is an Inspector of Schools for the Presidency stationed in St. Kitts, and an Educational District Officer in each of the other islands. The number of children on the roll is 7,571.

There are two homes for the poor and infirm in the Presidency; one in Charlestown, Nevis, and the other in Basseterre, St. Kitts.

The infirmary in Nevis is a separate building in the hospital grounds and consists of two rooms (male and female) with verandahs, etc. Each room has 6 beds which are always occupied. The annual expenditure is £85.

The infirmary in St. Kitts is situated to the west of the town of Basseterre. It consists of two large buildings (male and female living rooms) with spacious verandahs, a dining hall, kitchen and pantry, matron's quarters, etc., and an unfinished chapel. It is entirely enclosed and has fairly large grounds. There are 25 beds in each of the dormitories, and at present there are 49 inmates. The annual expenditure inclusive of a matron, cook, and laundress, is £528.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Service is maintained by the following steamship companies:—

Canadian National.—From Canada.
Ocean Dominion.—From Canada.
Ocean Dominion.—From New York.
Bermuda & West India S.S. Co.—From New York.
Munson S.S. Line.—From New York.
Harrison S.S. Line.—From England.
Royal Netherlands S.S. Co.—From Curacao, via Dutch Islands.
French Line.—From Martinique.

Apart from these lines a considerable number of small sailing craft connect the smaller islands.

ROADS.

The main road forms a closed circuit running more or less parallel to the coast line and with but few branch roads. It consists of a good macadamized road surface.

RAILWAYS.

A railway system has been built. It is used entirely for the transport of sugar-cane.

OMNIBUSES.

There are a considerable number of motor trucks and cars carrying on a good internal traffic.

TRAMWAYS.

The necessity for tramways does not exist.

POSTS.

With a central post office and sub-stations in many towns and villages a satisfactory postal delivery is maintained.

TELEGRAPHS.

There are two systems of telegraphic communication, viz. :—

(1) The West India and Panama Submarine Cable.
(2) Imperial and International Communications, Limited.

Both systems are now controlled by the latter Company.

TELEPHONES.

The telephone system is of the overhead ground-return circuit and extends throughout the island.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

BANKING.

Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas) formerly the Colonial Bank, and the Royal Bank of Canada have branches at Basseterre, St. Kitts.

They each have a $5 note issue, and approximately $50,000 for each Bank was in circulation in 1931.

They each have Savings Departments and give 3 per cent. on deposits.

The usual rate of interest charged by Banks on overdrafts is 8 per cent. compound.

There is a Government Savings Bank with branches at Basseterre, St. Kitts, and Charlestown, Nevis.

The following is a comparative statement of the transactions for the past three years :—

Year.	*Amount of deposits during the year.*			*Amount of withdrawals during the year.*			*Number of depositors at end of year.*	*Rate of interest paid per annum.*	*Amount standing to credit of depositors.*		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		Per cent.	£	s.	d.
Apl. 1929—Mch. 1930.	711	16	7	510	2	4	184	3	4,209	11	9
Apl. 1930—Mch. 1931	219	7	1	64	6	0	185	3	4,063	1	10
Apl. 1931—Dec. 1931.	387	17	5	447	13	10	185	3	4,003	5	5

CURRENCY.

All coins of the United Kingdom are taken at face value.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Imperial weights and measures are in use.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Owing to the financial depression existing in 1931, public works, with the exception of those under Colonial Development Schemes, consisted of ordinary maintenance and repair work.

Twenty-one model reinforced concrete cottages were built, and the water-supply of some small villages improved with assistance from Colonial Development funds.

Ice and cold storage plants were also erected in Basseterre, St. Kitts, and Charlestown, Nevis. The ice plant at Basseterre is of 5 tons capacity in 24 hours, and that at Charlestown, one-half ton.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

JUSTICE.

There is no resident Judge in the Presidency, the number of judges in the Colony having been reduced from three to two.

Each island of the Presidency constitutes a circuit, and superior courts are held three times a year in St. Kitts and Nevis. It is seldom necessary for the judge to hold a court in Anguilla. Either the Chief Justice from Antigua or a Puisne Judge presides.

There are four magisterial districts in the Presidency—two in St. Kitts, one in Nevis, and one in Anguilla—presided over by four magistrates. Summary courts are held at five centres in St. Kitts, three in Nevis, and one in Anguilla.

POLICE.

The police of the Presidency form part of a Federal body, and at present are commanded by an inspector.

The establishment consists of 1 officer and 54 other ranks. They are distributed as follows :—

St. Kitts	... 6 stations.	38	N.C.Os. and men.
Nevis ...	... 4 stations.	14	,, ,,
Anguilla	... 1 station.	2	,, ,,

PRISONS.

The St. Kitts prison is the prison for the Presidency and is situate in the town of Basseterre. It consists of three buildings used for the reception of prisoners; also a building divided up and used as offices, a workshop, a kitchen, and another used exclusively as a residence for the keeper of the prison.

One of the three buildings used for the reception of prisoners is made of stone, of one storey, and this building is used entirely for male prisoners. The other two buildings used for the reception of female prisoners are wooden structures, one being of two storeys, and the other being of one storey. The upper storey of the one is used as a residence for the matron of the prison, while the lower storey is divided equally into two cells; the other building is also equally divided into eight cells and these ten cells are used exclusively for female prisoners.

The part of the premises used for the matron and the female prisoners is entirely separated by a masonry wall from the part used for the keeper and the male prisoners.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Five Ordinances and fifteen Statutory Rules and Orders became Law within the year under review.

There is no legislation in the Presidency for factories or for compensation for accidents, etc.

The Medical Ordinance, 1919, provides for free medical attendance for children of labourers and for poor and destitute persons.

The following is a list of the Ordinances and Statutory Rules and Orders:—

ORDINANCES.

No.	*Short Title.*	*Effect.*
1.	The Appropriation Ordinance, 1931.	The usual Ordinance, but ending on 31st December.
2.	The Export Duty Remission Ordinance, 1931.	Abolishes export duties on sugar, syrup, molasses, and rum in the year 1931.
3.	The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, 1931.	The usual Ordinance.
4.	The Appropriation Ordinance, 1932.	The usual Ordinance.
5.	The Public Piers and Wharves Amendment Ordinance, 1931.	Repeals section 2 of the Public Piers and Wharves Ordinance, 1900, and substitutes a new section, whereby piers and wharves subject to wharfage rates are named by Order in Council.

STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS.

No.	*Short Title.*	*Effect.*
1.	Exportation of Fruit Rules, 1931.	Regulates the grading and packing of fruit.
2.	Customs Duties	Exempts from payment of duty goods imported for the repair of St. George's Rectory, Nevis.
3.	Dangerous Drugs Order. (Di-hydro-morphinone).	Part IV of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, 1927, declared applicable.
4.	Close season for Cotton (Anguilla).	Fixes date of close season.
5.	Cotton Regulations, Anguilla, 1931.	Repeals Cotton Regulations of 1929, and makes new ones.
6.	Warner Park Regulations, 1930, Amendment Regulations, 1931.	Vacation of membership of Committee by absence from island.
7.	Emigrants Protection Permits, Anguilla.	Deposits not to be collected.
8.	Arms and Ammunition (Tear Gas Pistol) Order, 1931.	Tear Gas Pistols declared to be arms.
9.	Arms and Ammunition Ordinance, 1905, Proclamation as to Tear Gas Pistols.	Importation of Tear Gas Pistols prohibited.
10.	Customs Duties	Imperial and International Communications, Limited, substituted for the Pacific Cable Board.
11.	Customs Duties ...	Apparatus, etc., imported by the Imperial and International Communications, Limited, exempt from duty.
12.	Medical Districts Order in Council, 1931.	Fixes the boundaries of the medical districts in Nevis.
13.	Customs Duties	Alters and increases the rates of certain items.
14.	Electric Current ...	Fixes the rates.
15.	Customs Duties	Increases rates on spirits and wine.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The following is a statement of revenue and expenditure for the period 1st April to 31st December, 1931, as compared with the years 1930–31 and 1929–30.

REVENUE.

1st April, 1931 *to* 31*st December*, 1931.	*1st April*, 1930 *to* 31*st March*, 1931.	*1st April*, 1929 *to* 31*st March*, 1930.
£69,207 (*a*)	£114,242 (*b*)	£102,013 (*c*)

	£
(*a*) Includes Imperial grant for Colonial Development Schemes	8,876
and for relief of unemployment	2,000
(*b*) Includes Imperial grant for Colonial Development Schemes	8,632
and for relief of unemployment	6,000
and from sale of reserve funds investments	9,000

(*c*) Includes £4,025 19s. 2d. from sale of investments for repayment of debentures under Ordinance 5 of 1885.

EXPENDITURE.

1st April, 1931 *to* 31*st December*, 1931.	*1st April*, 1930 *to* 31*st March*, 1931.	*1st April*, 1929 *to* 31*st March*, 1930.
£82,839	£116,893	£100,365

	£	s.	d.
The year opened on 1st April, 1931, with a Surplus of	712	19	7
Total revenue 1st April to 31st December was	69,207	9	5
Total expenditure ,, ,, ,,	82,839	7	5½
Leaving a deficit on 31st December, 1931, of...	12,908	18	5½

PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt at 31st December, 1931, was £72,350 and the accumulated sinking funds at middle market price at that date amounted to £43,567 16s. 6d., leaving a net debt of £28,782 3s. 6d., or £416 16s. 11d. less than at the close of the last financial year.

ASSETS.

There are no surplus or reserve funds.

Main heads of taxation are :—	*Per annum.* £
1. Import duties (on other than alcoholic liquor) yielding approximately	38,500
Import duties (on alcoholic liquor) yielding approximately	13,400
2. Export duties yielding approximately	5,000
(Collection of export duty on sugar and molasses suspended during 1931).	
3. Pier dues yielding approximately	5,500
4. Tonnage and package dues yielding approximately	3,600
5. Land and house taxes yielding approximately ...	4,600
6. Income-tax yielding approximately	3,500
(The rates on chargeable incomes over £200 per annum are to be increased from 1st April, 1932.)	

CUSTOMS TARIFF (summarized).

An *ad valorem* duty of 10 per cent. is imposed on British goods, and 15 per cent. generally on foreign goods; the general rate, however, in some cases is higher than this. Similarly, specific rates of duty confer upon British goods a preference of 50 per cent. Duties in many cases are lower than in other places throughout the West Indies.

EXCISE AND STAMP DUTIES (summarized).

Excise of 8s. per proof gallon on rum made locally (Ordinance No. 3 of 1892) since raised to 10s. per gallon. No distillery is now working in St. Kitts and no excise is collected.

Stamp duties, about £700 per annum, are levied under Leeward Islands Act, Cap. 135.

HUT TAX OR POLL TAX

(Rate, yield, methods of assessment and collection).

There is no Hut or Poll Tax in force. There is, however, a minimum tax of 5s. per annum payable half-yearly on every house lot in the town of Basseterre, St. Kitts, which is assessed by the Land and House Tax Commissioners under Ordinance 9 of 1913. If the tax is not paid at the Treasury within the prescribed period it is collected by the Provost Marshal by distraint or otherwise (ss. 23–33 of Ordinance 9 of 1913).

DOMINICA.

I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

GEOGRAPHY.

Dominica is an island of approximately 304 square miles, situated between 15° 10′ and 15° 40′ North latitude and 61° 14′ and 61° 30′ West longitude, and is of a very mountainous nature, the whole island being split up into deep valleys and hills. The highest peak is Morne Diablotin, 4,747 feet. There are many rivers and the rainfall is high.

CLIMATE.

From the latter part of November to April the climate is pleasant. During the rest of the year it is generally hot and liable to heavy rains. Malaria is endemic in the capital and other parts of the island, and it is desirable to take precautions against dysentery and other water-borne diseases by boiling all water.

The means of minimum and maximum temperature during 1931 ranged between 68° and 75° and 83° and 94°.

The rainfall at Roseau for 1931 totalled 93·87 inches.

HISTORY.

Dominica was discovered by Christopher Columbus on Sunday, 3rd November, 1493, and was included in the grant of sundry islands in the Caribbean Sea to the Earl of Carlisle by a patent dated 2nd June, 1627. Several attempts to bring the place under subjection proved abortive and in 1748 it was stipulated between the English and the French that Dominica should be neutral and should be left to the Caribs who were originally found in possession. During this period, when Dominica was professedly regarded as neutral, many French planters settled in the island.

It was captured by the English in 1756 and was assigned to Great Britain by the Treaty of Paris in 1763. Dominica, at this time, formed a unit of the general government which comprised Grenada, the Grenadines, St. Vincent, and Tobago.

In 1771 the island was constituted a separate government and on 21st June, 1775, a House of Representatives was established by Royal Proclamation.

The island was captured in 1778 by the French, but was restored to Great Britain in 1783.

Another invasion of the island was attempted in 1795 by the French, but this failed.

In 1805 the French again landed and the capital, Roseau, was set on fire.

In 1833 the island was, with Antigua and other Leeward Islands, formed into a general government, under a Governor-in-Chief, resident at Antigua.

On the windward side of the island exists, in a reserve set apart, a remnant of the once warlike tribe of Caribs. The number of the inhabitants in the reserve is approximately 500, but of these only a small proportion can be considered of " pure " Carib blood.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The local Government is administered by an Administrator aided by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General of the Leeward Islands, and such persons as may be appointed from time to time, under the Royal Instructions of 5th May, 1904. There is a Legislative Council, consisting of six official members, two non-official members, nominated by the Governor under Royal Letters Patent, and four elected members. The Administrator presides in the Legislative Council in the absence of the Governor.

III.—POPULATION.

The last census was taken in the year 1921. The population at 31st December, 1931, was estimated at 43,098.

The birth-rate was 35·34 per thousand in 1931 compared with 34·74 in 1930. The percentage of legitimate and illegitimate births was 43·84 and 56·16 respectively.

The death-rate in 1931 was 18·5 per thousand compared with 18·9 in 1930, whilst the infantile mortality (children under one year) amounted to 290 or 32 per cent. of the total number of deaths.

There were 167 marriages reported in 1931, consisting of :—

Church of England	6
Roman Catholics	156
Wesleyans	4
Reformed Methodists	1
Total...	167

There were 1,500 departures from Dominica in 1931, whilst 1,839 persons arrived, the ratio being 45 per cent. and 55 per cent. respectively.

A French patois is spoken by the majority of the inhabitants, though the use of English is becoming more general.

IV.—HEALTH.

The incidence of the principal diseases in the districts (excluding the hospitals) in 1931 was as follows :—

	Per cent.
Intestinal parasites	16·37
Malaria	14·44
Skin and connective tissues diseases	12·38
Diseases of the digestive system	10·84
Yaws	8·64
Diseases of the respiratory system	6·37

Venereal diseases amounted to 3·43 per cent., whilst leprosy is recorded as 0·1 per cent.

Hookworm (ankylostomiasis) and malaria are the two most important diseases, affecting principally the labouring population. Yaws has shown a progressive decline during the last few years.

The greater part of the population is engaged on agricultural work, either on estates or plantations or on small peasant holdings.

There is a hospital in Roseau which contained in 1931 ninety-four beds including seven for private patients.

At Portsmouth there is a second hospital with thirty-five beds, whilst at Marigot and Grand Bay there are cottage hospitals each containing four beds. At Roseau there is an English matron with 14 native nurses, whilst in the country hospitals the work is performed by native nurses.

In 1931 a Medical Officer of Health was generously provided for from the Colonial Development Fund. His work, however, has been much handicapped by the very limited funds at his disposal.

V.—HOUSING.

The commonest type of dwelling house used by the wage-earning section of the population is a single-storey wooden structure which may or may not be elevated from the ground by a few stones or wooden supports. The roof is made of wooden shingles or galvanized iron, though roofs of the thatched type are seen in the country districts. The interior may be divided into two or three compartments by wooden boards. The size varies roughly from 10 ft. by 8 ft. by 8 ft. to about 20 ft. by 16 ft. by 10 ft. These houses can usually be moved *en bloc* from site to site.

On an average there are said to be five persons to every dwelling house in Dominica.

Cooking and washing are not done in the houses. Some roughly made kitchen adjoins each house and the fuel used is charcoal.

Water pipes are only laid directly on to the better class houses, otherwise a receptacle is kept near the house which is replenished from a conveniently near pipe-supply, or from the nearest stream, irrespective of its potable qualities.

It is exceptional to see a proper latrine for each house, but there are communal pail latrines in Roseau and in some of the villages. There is a water-borne sewage system in Roseau, but only with limited connexions. The outfall at the sea front would not permit of connecting up all houses. Owing to the nature of the shore and the damage by hurricanes it is difficult to know what course to recommend.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Dominica is dependent on its agricultural production, there being no mineral and very few refined products manufactured. Orchard crops constitute the chief area planted, of which limes and other citrus fruits, cocoa, coco-nuts, and coffee are the most important.

For many years the lime industry has been the staple industry, and in 1921 reached its highest peak of production, which, expressed in round numbers as fruit, represented over 500,000 barrels. Since that year a series of disasters has affected this industry, namely, the advent of withertip disease in 1922, a hurricane in 1926, followed by a widespread epidemic of root diseases of seedling lime trees, still prevalent, and exceptionally severe hurricanes in 1928 and 1930. These calamities have resulted in the wholesale destruction of seedling lime plantations and the reduction of the crop exported to approximately only 25,000 barrels in 1931.

It has definitely been established that the lime budded on a deep-rooting and disease-resisting stock is a safeguard against such contingencies, and planters for the past three years have been actively engaged in rehabilitating their estates with this type of plant. The earlier plantings are just commencing to fruit. The Agricultural Department is primarily concerned in propagating these budded limes of which 27,000 have been distributed in 1931 and a total of nearly 58,000 in the past four years.

Plantations of other permanent crops such as cocoa and coco-nuts have been seriously affected by the hurricanes and production is temporarily at a low level.

Citrus trees other than limes which were already growing on sour orange stock and were only temporarily damaged by the hurricane made rapid recovery, and production this year has been well above the average. A Government central packing depot equipped with grading machinery has done much to stimulate the fruit industry.

The amelioration of agricultural conditions in Dominica brought about by storms and diseases is being materially assisted by the Imperial Government in the form of grants-in-aid and loans to planters administered by the Agricultural Department and the Loan Board respectively.

A few of the principal estates are owned and managed by Europeans, but the majority belong to local planters. There is also a preponderance of peasant holdings which, besides augmenting the supply of staple products, grow ground provisions for local consumption. The introduction of new settlers with capital would be beneficial in helping to bring large areas of semi-abandoned land back into cultivation.

There is no live stock officer or veterinary surgeon in Dominica, and the raising of live stock as an industry is left entirely to individual enterprise. The number of animals so raised is insufficient for local purposes.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The total trade of the Presidency for the year 1931 was £236,737, imports being £167,799 and exports £68,938. This shows an excess of imports over exports of £98,861 as compared with £87,804 for the previous year.

2. The following table shows the direction of trade for the years 1931 and 1930 :—

IMPORTS.

	1931.	1930.
	£	£
United Kingdom	55,860	72,213
British North America	35,243	46,314
Other British Possessions	37,436	36,403
United States of America	30,776	37,361
Other Foreign Countries	8,484	8,599
Total	£167,799	£200,890

EXPORTS.

	1931.	1930.
	£	£
United Kingdom	22,795	40,514
British North America	3,308	6,258
Other British Possessions	8,189	10,601
United States of America	26,714	55,066
Other Foreign Countries	7,932	647
Total	£68,938	£113,086

3. The percentage of import trade for the year 1931 was as follows :—United Kingdom 33·29 per cent., Canada 21 per cent., Other British Possessions 22·31 per cent., United States 18·35 per cent., Other Foreign Countries 5·05 per cent. ; thus it will be seen that only 23·40 per cent. of the value of the imports was from foreign countries.

4. As regards imports from the United States, food and drink amounted to £5,944, and other articles £24,832, the principal items being butter substitutes, 96,000 lb., valued at £3,137 ; corn-meal, 559 bags of 98 lb. each, value £298 ; peas and beans, 12,030 lb., value £205 ; medicine and drugs, £429 ; preserved meats, 80,555 lb., valued at £724 ; shooks and staves, £1,463, wood, 195,526 feet, valued at £3,336, cotton piece-goods, £5,578 ; gasolene, 17,439 gallons, £1,303 ; kerosene, 33,264 gallons, £1,581 ; and machinery, £1,230.

5. It is to be hoped that efforts made by the Canadian trade exhibition cruise on the S.S. *New Northland* will to a great extent divert much of the import trade from the United States to Canada. Similar Empire exhibition cruises would tend to develop Empire trade by bringing manufacturers and shippers into closer touch with local tradesmen.

6. Owing to the ravages of the red root disease and the disastrous hurricane of 1930 as well as the depressed condition of the market for such items as vanilla, lime and lime products, etc., there is a decided falling off in export of these commodities. The following is a comparative table of these items for 1930 and 1931 :—

	1931.		1930.	
		£		£
Cocoa	218,773 lb.	1,595	409,536 lb.	6,826
Copra	45,526 ,,	351	113,831 ,,	1,067
Lime juice, raw	93,255 gallons	3,886	195,994 gallons	9,800
Lime juice, concentrated	3,211 gallons	241	45,832 gallons	5,729
Green limes	10,867 barrels	13,584	17,461 barrels	26,191
Distilled lime oil	14,446 lb.	21,668	25,667 lb.	34,664
Vanilla	144 lb.	29	7,678 ,,	2,112

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The average wage of a labourer is 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. a day, and female labour 10d., while artificers' wages range from 4s. to 6s., the hours of work being 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The staple food-stuffs are local vegetables which are cheap, and an expenditure of 1s. a day would cover this and other necessities.

The prices of commodities to the labouring class during the year on such items as bread, flour, fish, meat, fresh vegetables, and sugar were :—bread 4d. per lb., fish 4d., meat 7d., vegetables 1½d., sugar 3d., kerosene 6d. per quart. These prices are on the average similar to those of 1930.

There is no staple food-stuff that can act as a true guide to the cost of living of the labourer. When vegetables are plentiful there is less recourse to the shops for such items as flour and meal.

Regarding officials, the cost of certain items would be :—house rent £30 to £60 per annum, various commodities such as butter 3s. per lb., milk 4d. per quart, cheese 2s. to 3s. per lb., eggs 1½d. each, coffee 1s. 6d. per lb., cocoa 2s. per lb., bacon and ham 2s. 6d. per lb., and wine 6s. per bottle.

The cost of living of officials is high, as imported food-stuffs are mostly used and the cost of these is gradually rising.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

In 1931, there were 31 primary schools in existence, 27 maintained by Government, 3 assisted by Government, and one unaided. The number of pupils enrolled to the end of December, 1931, was 7,297 with an average attendance of 4,742, against an enrolment of 7,306 and an average attendance of 4,601 at the end of December, 1930.

The Estimates for the period under review provided the sum of £4,414 for schools, and the actual expenditure for the period was £4,129 3s. 1d. During the period great efforts have been made to improve the work in every school, often in the face of difficulties, and although it has been impossible to do all that could have been wished, satisfactory progress has been made.

Much has been done to cope with the need for increased accommodation in congested schools.

The equipment in the schools has improved but the vote is inadequate to deal with the increase in attendance.

School gardening has shown much progress.

Manual training has been taken up with much enthusiasm in some of the schools. Carpentry is taught to boys of the middle and upper classes.

A night school has been in existence for some time in Roseau, whilst another was started at Portsmouth in April last. The total enrolment of these two schools is 286 with an average attendance of 152.

There are three institutions aiming at a standard above that of the primary schools :—

The grammar school for boys with 60 pupils (December, 1931) maintained by Government ; the convent secondary school for girls with 73 girls, and a preparatory department containing also seven boys aided by Government ; the Wesley high school, a small private school, with some 20 pupils, mainly girls.

All three schools have as their highest standard that of the school certificate of the University of Cambridge Examinations Syndicate. In this and the Junior Local Examination the grammar school has been conspicuously successful of recent years and compares more than favourably with any other school in the Colony. The girls' schools have been less successful, but there appears to have been an improvement in the standard reached recently.

While the academic standard is a comparatively high one, conditions in the island make it difficult to embark on certain original methods of inculcating knowledge and the appreciation of knowledge. Games, which are a compulsory part of the curriculum at the boys' school are played on the public grounds where the staff do not have that measure of control which would enable them to stress certain features of team games which are such great value in the building of character and the teaching of self-control.

The Agricultural Department maintains a small class of youths who are trained in the elements of practical agricultural method, and the efforts here are meeting with success.

The Leeward Islands Colony has a scholarship of sufficient value to enable the winner to proceed to a seat of higher education elsewhere—Canada, the United States, or Great Britain—but there is, in the Colony, no further provision for education beyond the normal small secondary school standard.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

The chief means of transport is the sea, while on the leeward coast it is also the main means of communication ; a regular mail service by motor boat runs between Roseau and Portsmouth. There are about 270 miles of roads, but only 55 are suitable for motor traffic.

There is a single-line telephone with exchanges at Roseau, Layou, Portsmouth, Marigot, Grand Bay, and Delices, and a wireless station on Morne Daniel operated by Imperial and International Communications, Limited.

There is an open roadstead at Roseau and a good natural harbour in Prince Rupert's Bay, Portsmouth.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

There are two Banks carrying on business in the Presidency, Barclays (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), and the Royal Bank of Canada. These Banks also issue their own bank notes and had at the end of the year a note circulation of $68,260.

Both Banks have Savings Bank Departments and pay 3 per cent. interest on deposits.

There is a Government Savings Bank and interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. was paid on deposits during the year. The following is a statement of the transactions for the past two years :—

Year.	*Amount of deposits during the year.* £ s. d.	*Amount of withdrawals during the year.* £ s. d.	*Number of depositors at end of year.*	*Rate of interest.* Per cent.	*Amount standing to credit of depositors.* £ s. d.
1929–30	8,010 12 6	2,181 14 2	496	3½	11,536 8 3
1930–31	5,385 16 4	8,170 5 8	626	3½	8,751 18 10

CURRENCY.

All coins of the United Kingdom are used as currency at face value. The local dollar is a sterling dollar, value 4s. 2d.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Imperial weights and measures are in use in the Presidency.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The main activities apart from routine services have been devoted to Colonial Development Schemes, chiefly road construction.

A new infant school was completed in Roseau at a cost of just under £1,000, and additions and improvements to the Roseau Hospital were carried out at a cost of approximately £600.

Great damage was caused to the roads of the island due to a long drought followed by excessive rains and insufficient maintenance funds to repair the damage. Much deterioration has resulted.

The following Colonial Development Schemes have been completed or are in course of construction :—

Completed.	£
Tuberculosis ward, Roseau	1,458
Blenheim bridge	1,752
Water service to 6 villages	2,758
Cold storage plant, Roseau	5,309

Under Construction.

Maternity ward (No. 2), Roseau, completed since 31st December, 1931.

Provision of manhole covers for streets of Roseau.

Road scheme.

Drainage, Portsmouth swamp.

The staff of the Department consists of a Colonial Engineer and Surveyor General, two Road Surveyors, and an Electrician, together with the normal clerical, etc., staff. In addition there is a Road Engineer supervising the Colonial Development Road Schemes.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

JUSTICE.

The administration of justice in Dominica is a Federal matter and is governed by three Acts of the General Legislature of the Leeward Islands, viz.: the Supreme Court Act, the Summary Jurisdiction Court Act, and the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act. There is also the West Indian Court of Appeal Act which provides for a West Indian Court of Appeal.

The Supreme Court.—The Dominica circuit of the Supreme Court of the Leeward Islands consists of the First Puisne Judge of the Leeward Islands, a Crown Attorney of the Leeward Islands, both resident in Dominica, and the Registrar and Provost Marshal of Dominica. The Supreme Court being Federal, any Judge or Law Officer of the whole Colony may act in any Presidency of the Colony. Any member of the English, Scotch, or Irish Bar is entitled to be admitted as a practising Barrister of the Supreme Court of the Leeward Islands. Any person who has been admitted as a Solicitor, or Writer to the Signet, by a Superior Court in England, Scotland, or Ireland is entitled to be admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of the Leeward Islands. There are no local Barristers or Solicitors.

The Supreme Court is always open, and a Circuit Court for the hearing of criminal and civil cases is held three times a year, viz.: January, May, and October. In all criminal and in certain civil cases the Court is assisted by a jury of nine men empanelled in accordance with the provisions of the Jury Act. There is no Grand Jury; the Crown Attorney performs the functions of the Grand Jury.

The Supreme Court has jurisdiction over all indictable felonies and misdemeanours and over all civil cases (with the exception of those coming under the jurisdiction of the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and the Magistrate's Court).

The Court of Summary Jurisdiction.—The Judges of the Supreme Court of the Leeward Islands and the Officers of the Supreme Court of the Leeward Islands are Judges and Officers of the Court of Summary Jurisdiction.

The Court of Summary Jurisdiction sits in the Presidency of Dominica on the first day of each month and is presided over by the First Puisne Judge of the Leeward Islands, resident in Dominica.

The Magistrates' Courts.—The Island of Dominica is divided into three Magisterial Districts, viz.: " E," " F," and " G." There are three Magistrates and one Additional Magistrate. The Magistrate of District " E " is also Crown Attorney. The Magistrate of District " F " is also Additional Magistrate of District " E." The Magistrate of District " G " is also Warden of the Northern District. There are twelve Magistrates' Court Houses in the Presidency.

Appeals.—All appeals from the Supreme Court and the Court of Summary Jurisdiction (with the exception of appeals arising from the Magistrates' Courts) lie to the West Indian Court of Appeal composed of the Chief Justices of the British West Indies. The West Indian Court of Appeal is also a Court of Criminal Appeal.

All appeals from the Magistrates' Courts lie, in the first instance, to a Judge of the Supreme Court and on further appeal to the Full Court.

The Full Court.—The Full Court sits twice a year in the Antigua circuit and is composed of the Chief Justice and one or two Puisne Judges of the Leeward Islands. The jurisdiction of the Full Court is now very limited. It was stripped of practically all its powers on the creation of the West Indian Court of Appeal. Its chief functions now are to hear appeals from a Judge of the Supreme Court arising from appeals from the Magistrates' Courts and cases of breach of discipline by any officer of the Court.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

There are a few Justices of the Peace in the Presidency. They are appointed by Commission of the Governor. Any two Justices of the Peace may sit and adjudicate on a case in which the District Magistrate is interested. Any Justice of the Peace may order the closing of a rum shop in case of a riot.

POLICE.

The Presidency is policed by a detachment of the Leeward Islands Police Force of 2 officers and 39 non-commissioned officers and men, assisted to a very small degree by about 70 local constables.

The Inspector of Police in charge of the detachment is under the command of the Chief Inspector in Antigua.

The force is a semi-military body armed with S.M.L.E. rifles and a Lewis gun.

Crime.—Offences against the revenue are dealt with almost entirely by the police, there being very few revenue officers in the island. Five cases of illicit distillation of rum and three cases of smuggling were dealt with in 1931. The number of cases actually dealt with was undoubtedly small compared with the number of offences actually committed. The sympathy of the population was and has been for some time with the lawbreakers, and the small number of the police, the inaccessibility of the country, and the lack of a sea patrol boat make detection of these offences very difficult.

The most important class of offence in an agricultural community like that of Dominica is praedial larceny, and the statistics for the year give very little indication of the extent to which this crime has spread. Thousands of cases, yearly, of this nature are not actually discovered until long after they have been committed, and consequently never prosecuted; probably many cases are not discovered at all.

Larceny of limes was the commonest offence, and though the Agricultural Protection Ordinance controlled to some extent the sale of this product, shortage of officers on the strength of the police with an agricultural knowledge made the Ordinance only partially effective. Of offences against the person a case of the murder of a newborn babe was reported to the police, resulting in a verdict of guilty for "attempted concealment of birth."

There have also been a few cases of housebreaking and burglary.

PRISONS.

Buildings.—The Dominica prison contains 20 male cells and 8 female cells. The average number of prisoners in 1931 was 25 males and 7 females.

The male prisoners are permanently divided from the female, but there are no means of segregating the prisoners on hard labour from debtors, juveniles, or remanded prisoners awaiting trial.

Every effort is made, however, to keep each class as far apart as possible.

Juvenile.—Juvenile offenders are tried in a juvenile court from which the public are excluded. During 1931, fortunately, only one juvenile was actually in prison. Other offenders of this class were dealt with by being put on probation or reprimanded as first offenders. In a few bad cases these offenders received corporal punishment, and in others their parents or guardians were fined.

Probation.—Advantage was taken of the Probation Act by the magistrates.

Deaths.—One male prisoner died during the year.

Commitments.—The number of prisoners committed during the year was:—

	Males.	*Females.*
From Magistrate's Court...	208	100
From Circuit Court	19	5
Remanded prisoners, lunatics included...	42	27
Debtors	3	—
Totals	272	132

Of the convicted prisoners one male was juvenile.

Analysis of the sentences :—

	Males.	*Females.*
Three months or less	190	97
Over three months and less than one year	21	4
One year and less than five years ...	15	3
Five years or more	1	1
Totals	227	105

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

ORDINANCES PASSED IN DOMINICA DURING 1931.

No. 1.—The Roseau Town Board Validating Ordinance.

No. 2.—The Tobacco Ordinance, 1931.

No. 3.—The Passport Ordinance, 1931.

No. 4.—The Midwifery Ordinance, 1931.

No. 5.—The Administrator's Emoluments Ordinance, 1931.

No. 6.—The Passengers' Ordinance, 1925, Repeal Ordinance, 1931.

No. 7.—The Constitution Amendment Ordinance, 1931.

No. 8.—The Motor Car (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.

No. 9.—The Appropriation Ordinance, 1931.

SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION ISSUED IN DOMINICA DURING 1931.

Statutory Rules and Orders.

No. 1.—Appointing a date for the register of persons entitled to vote at an election of a member of Council.

No. 2.—Appointing a date for the taking of a census.

No. 3.—Bringing up to date the regulations with respect to motor cars.

No. 4.—Varying the close season for the killing, wounding or taking of wild birds.

No. 5.—Removing the prohibition against the island of Nevis in respect of animals suffering from anthrax.

No. 6.—Permitting the wearing of masks between certain hours on certain days, and generally regulating the behaviour of persons participating in the annual carnival.

No. 7.—Regulating the use by the public of the Roseau jetties.

No. 8.—Appointing the 16th and 17th February half holidays.

No. 9.—Dissolving the Legislative Council.

No. 10.—Regulating the duties of Customs and Treasury Officers.

No. 11.—Prohibiting the importation of certain fruits and vegetables from certain named countries.

No. 12.—Relating to the internal management of the Roseau Hospital.

No. 13.—Prohibiting the importation of certain dangerous drugs.

No. 14.—Regulating the exportation of fruit.

No. 15.—Declaring the hours within which motor cars should carry lights.

No. 16.—Exempting visitors' motor cars from the payment of duty under certain conditions.

No. 17.—Rescinding No. 14 of 1931 and making other provisions in lieu thereof with relation to the exportation of fruit.

No. 18.—Declaring a certain new portion of a road to be part of a main public road.

There is Federal legislation enabling certain relatives of a person whose death is caused by any wrongful act to sue for damages.

There is no factory legislation or legislative provision for sickness, old age, etc.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue.

The revenue of the Presidency for the period April to December, 1931, exclusive of Imperial grants and grants from the Colonial Development Fund, amounted to £45,535, comprising the following divisions:—Customs £24,965, Port and Wharf Dues £2,916, Internal Revenue £10,670, Fees of Court £3,342, Post Office £1,226, Telephones £778, Electric Light £1,301, Rents £62, Interest £59, Miscellaneous £212, and Land Sales £4.

In addition the amount received from the Colonial Development Fund was £23,329 and from Imperial grants £20,000.

Expenditure.

The local expenditure amounted to £54,112, together with an expenditure of £20,336 from the Colonial Development Fund and £16,602 from Imperial grants.

Included in the expenditure figures are charges on account of Public Debt, £1,475, Pensions, £4,034, Federal Contribution, £4,417, Hospitals and Charitable Allowances, £5,121, and Education, £5,383.

A comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure for the last three years is as follows:—

	1929–30.	1930–31.	April to December 1931.
	£	£	£
Revenue ...	70,674	63,441	45,535
Expenditure	68,356	71,178	54,112

PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt of the Presidency is £57,417 6s. 7d. made up as follows :—Roads and Bridges Loan, 1888, £30,000 ; Public Works Loan, 1894, £21,417 6s. 7d. ; and Electricity Supply Loan, 1928, £6,000. The Public Works Loan of 1894 was originally £30,000 but £8,582 13s. 5d. amount of stock has been cancelled during 1930.

ASSETS.

There are no available assets, the deficit at 31st December being £14,358.

MAIN HEADS OF TAXATION.

The main heads of taxation and the yield from each for the period April to December are :—

	£
Customs	24,965
Jetty Rates	1,932
Excise Duty	5,534
Land and House Tax	1,123
Income-tax	728
Liquor Licence	1,378
Miscellaneous Taxes	1,444

CUSTOMS TARIFF.

The Customs Tariff is based on two measures of assessment, an *ad valorem* and specific basis. The *ad valorem* rate is levied chiefly on manufactured articles and is in the main 10 per cent. British preferential tariff and 15 per cent. general tariff ; food and drink are chiefly taxed at specific rates, such items as fish ranging from 2s. 1d., 4s. 2d., and 8s. 4d. per 100 lb. British preferential tariff to 4s. 2d., 6s. 3d., and 12s. 6d. general tariff ; flour and meal at 2s. and 7s. 4d. preferential and 3s. and 9s. general per 196 lb. ; spirits range from 6s. to 11s. per gallon preferential to 9s. to 13s. 6d. general.

EXCISE DUTIES.

Excise duties are leviable on rum locally manufactured at 3s. per proof gallon, and on tobacco at 6d. per lb. Stamp duties are governed by Federal Statutes and are the same throughout the Colony.

There is no hut or poll tax.

MONTSERRAT.

I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The island, discovered by Columbus in 1493, was named by him after a famous mountain in Spain, where is situated the monastery in which Ignatius Loyola conceived the project of founding the Society of Jesus. Montserrat was colonized by the Irish in 1632; the French took it in 1664, and levied heavy imposts on the inhabitants; it was restored to England in 1668. It capitulated to the French in 1782, but was restored to the English in 1783. Montserrat is situated 27 miles from Antigua in 16° 45′ North latitude, and 61° West longitude, and is about 11 miles in length, and 7 in the broadest part. Its total area is 32½ square miles. It is of volcanic formation and very rugged and mountainous. The hills are covered with forest, the highest elevation being Chances Mountain (3,000 feet) in the southern part of the island.

The island is considered to be one of the most healthy of the Antilles.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Presidency is a unit of the Leeward Islands Federation. The local Government is administered by a Commissioner. There is an Executive Council consisting of three official and three unofficial members, and a Legislative Council consisting of four official and four unofficial members, with the Governor, and in his absence the Commissioner, as President. When the Governor is present the Commissioner sits as a member of the Council. A Board of Health deals with public health and poor relief in the island and municipal matters of the town of Plymouth.

Mr. H. H. Hutchings, I.S.O., Commissioner, went on leave on 26th September, 1931, and subsequently retired.

III.—POPULATION.

No census was taken in the Colony in 1931, but at the census in 1921 the population of the Presidency was 12,120, that of the town of Plymouth being 1,709. According to the Registrar-General's report for the year 1931 the population of the Presidency was 12,350 on 31st December, 1931. There were 46 marriages registered during the year, i.e., 0·3 per cent. of the population.

The number of births registered in the year 1931 was 416, of which 66 per cent. were illegitimates.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 285 or 2·3 per cent. of the population.

The deaths of infants under one year of age were 75, or 162·7 per thousand of the total number of births.

The number of immigrants arriving was 128, or 1 per cent. of the population.

The number of emigrants was 145, or 1·1 per cent. of the population.

IV.—HEALTH.

The year 1931 from a health point of view was not a good year for the island of Montserrat. Generally speaking, the health of the community as gauged by the death-rate, number of attendances at hospital, and number of invalidings, compares unfavourably with that of previous years.

The death-rate per 1,000 of population was 23·03 as compared with 19·51 in 1930 and 17·17 in 1929, and was only exceeded in 1928, the year of the disastrous hurricane, when the death-rate rose to 25·12 per 1,000.

The outstanding feature of 1931 was the epidemic of cellulitis in connexion with which Major-General Barrow, Health Officer, Antigua, paid this island a visit in March, 1931. The epidemic, which in the majority of cases was associated with filariasis, began in the latter part of 1930, and spread throughout the island. There were relatively few cases in the town of Plymouth. The epidemic came to an end in the latter months of 1931.

Among special diseases mention must be made of :—

(*a*) *Filariasis.*—There was a marked increase in the number of cases, many of which were complicated by cellulitis. The cases were removed to hospital for treatment as soon as diagnosed.

(*b*) *Tuberculosis.*—The number of deaths from tuberculosis during the year was 13, as compared with 21 in 1930, but the number of cases developing within the island showed an increase on previous years. These cases are the result of contact with advanced cases returned chiefly from the United States of America.

At present there is no tuberculosis ward at the hospital, and the need for such accommodation is keenly felt. There is room for much public health work in connexion with this disease.

(*c*) *Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.*—These diseases show a decrease on previous years, and the cases that have occurred have not been due to any pollution of the water-supply, which although inadequate in the dry season of the year is very good.

There were five cases treated in hospital in 1931 as compared with 12 in 1930.

(*d*) *Spirochaetal Diseases.*—Yaws still accounts for the greater number of illnesses among school children and irregular attendances at school.

The campaign against yaws and syphilis is still being waged and the results are becoming more and more evident. There were 1,669 injections, chiefly of arsenical preparations, given at the Glendon Hospital in the treatment of these diseases.

V.—HOUSING.

The houses of the labouring peasant classes are mostly fragile wooden structures. The majority of these people own their houses, but the land on which they are built belongs, as a rule, to the proprietors of the large estates.

On the occurrence of hurricanes, to which the Presidency, in common with other Presidencies of the Colony, is subject, the houses of these people are destroyed and damaged in large numbers.

A scheme has been financed by a loan of £5,000 from the Colonial Development Fund in order to provide stronger and better houses.

A return showing housing conditions is given as an appendix to this Report.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture is the chief occupation of this island, the staple crop being sea island cotton. In 1931, approximately 400,389 lb. of lint were shipped from 3,425 acres, giving an average yield of 117 lb. of lint per acre. This is somewhat under the average of previous years, due to the very unfavourable season that was experienced. Owing to the depressed state of the cotton market, the valuation of this year's crop is only about £20,000, when in normal times it would be valued at about £40,000. Previously, this crop accounted for over 90 per cent. of the value of the total exports from this island.

Tomatoes are now grown extensively for the winter market in Canada, and during 1931, over 17,000 crates (340,000 lb.) were shipped. This brought into the island about £3,500 and was a great help to the people. Other crops, such as yams, sweet potatoes, bananas, and onions, are grown for local consumption. The bay-oil and papain industries are temporarily impaired and held in abeyance for want of a market. Small quantities of lime juice were exported during the year. This industry is seeing very bad times, but hopes of an export trade in green limes both to Canada and to the United States of America are being entertained and every effort is being made to this end.

The following gives an idea of the land tenure in Montserrat :—

	Per cent.
In parcels under 10 acres, 1,235 holdings	94
,, ,, 11 to 50 acres, 28 holdings ...	2
,, ,, 51 to 100 acres, 5 holdings ...	½
,, ,, 101 to 1,000 acres, 35 holdings ..	3
,, over 1,000 acres, 3 holdings ...	½

The three holdings of over 1,000 acres are held by Europeans and so also are a few of those of 101 to 1,000 acres. All other holdings are held by native peasants.

The general world-wide depression and the dislocation of the sea island cotton market in the United Kingdom have had their ill effects on the trade of the Presidency, which showed a considerable decrease. If the cotton situation does not improve, the economic position of the island will be a matter of serious concern ; and efforts are being made to explore new uses for sea island cotton, and to find markets other than those in the United Kingdom.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The following are the statistics of Imports and Exports for the last five years :—

IMPORTS.

Year.	*United Kingdom.* £	*Colonies.* £	*Elsewhere.* £	*Total.* £
1927	18,742	30,587	14,073	63,402
1928	15,837	53,319	13,115	82,271
1929	21,941	39,378	31,251	92,570
1930	17,473	42,844	11,864	72,181
1931	10,310	28,961	6,419	45,690

EXPORTS.

Year.	*United Kingdom.* £	*Colonies.* £	*Elsewhere.* £	*Total.* £
1927	52,587	10,317	5,849	68,753
1928	73,543	9,538	5,297	88,378
1929	38,076	6,326	21,163	65,565
1930	39,231	5,967	9,823	55,021
1931	20,256	8,210	5,441	33,907

The value of the imports from the United Kingdom and Empire countries increased from 78 per cent. of the total value of imports in 1927 to 86 per cent. of the total value of imports in 1931. The value of exports to the United Kingdom and Empire countries in 1927 was 92 per cent. of the total value of exports, and in 1931 the value of exports to the same places was 84 per cent. of the total value of the exports. This decrease in the exports to British countries can be accounted for by the great diminution of exports of cotton to the United Kingdom owing to the falling off in the demand for sea island cotton.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Labourers in Government employ receive the following wages, viz. :—drivers 1s. 3d. per day ; labourers, men 1s. and women 8d. per day. Payment at the rate of 2d. per barrel is made for broken stones. On the estates the same scale of wages now exists.

The cost of living for each labourer, not including housing and clothing, is averaged at 8d. per day.

A married couple from the United Kingdom can live on about £300 a year; a bachelor might manage on £250 per annum. Bungalows cost from £30 to £50 per annum. The charge at hotels is about 12s. per day—reduced charges can be arranged for long periods. Boarding-house charges are from $1·50 to $2·00 a day, or $25 to $30 a month. Native servants cost from 15s. to £3 a month.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

During the period under review there were 12 elementary schools in the island managed by the Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Wesleyan denominations, and one undenominational by the Montserrat Company, Limited, with the aid of grants from the Government. The aggregate number of pupils enrolled was 2,761, and the average attendance was 2,044. There is also a grammar school (secondary) for boys which is maintained by Government, and a secondary school for girls with a Government grant.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

There are about 68 miles of public roads and by-ways in the island. Motor cars and omnibuses are used, and motor lorries for the transport of produce.

There is a telephone system extending for about 75 miles throughout most of the island.

The Presidency is in communication with the outside world by wireless telegraph.

The ships of the Canadian National Steamships call regularly once a fortnight on their way from and to Canada. Steamers of other lines call occasionally. There is a frequent communication by sailing vessel with Antigua, and similar communication at intervals with other West Indian islands. The number of vessels calling at the port of Plymouth during 1931, was as follows:—steamers 86, sailing vessels 181.

Roads.

The total approximate lengths of the roads of the Presidency are as follows:—

	Miles.
Main roads	$24\frac{1}{2}$
By-ways	44
Streets	$2\frac{3}{4}$

There are no asphalt or concrete roads in the Presidency, the surface, in the case of the streets, main roads, and more important by-ways, being of water-bound macadam.

The expenditure on the roads (including streets) for the last five years is as follows :—

1927–8.	1928–9.	1929–30.	1930–1.	April to December, 1931
£	£	£	£	£
1,114	995	1,147	1,107	907

TELEPHONES.

The telephone service is of the metallic circuit system and connects up the most populous districts of the Presidency. There are sixty-eight instruments in use of which thirty-nine are subscribed for by private individuals and companies, while the remainder represents the number of installations in Government offices and institutions.

The revenue and expenditure of the telephone service for the last five years are as follows :—

	1927–8.	1928–9.	1929–30.	1930–1.	April to December, 1931.
	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue ...	288	241	291	332	253
Expenditure ...	332	364	405	439	252

There are approximately 150 miles of line wire employed in the system.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

There is a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada in the Presidency. The Bank issues its own notes.

The Bank has a Savings Bank Department and pays 3 per cent. interest on deposits.

There is a Government Savings Bank, and interest at the rate of 3 per cent. is paid on deposits. The following is a statement of the Bank's transactions during the past two years :—

Year.	*Amount of deposits during the year.* £ s. d.	*Amount of withdrawals during the year.* £ s. d.	*Number of depositors at end of year.*	*Rate of interest.* Per cent.	*Amount standing to credit of depositors.* £ s. d.
1929–30	401 1 7	528 16 10	104	3	658 0 9
1930–31	307 12 6	301 1 2	106	3	661 12 1

CURRENCY.

All coins of the United Kingdom are in use.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The standard weights and measures of the United Kingdom are in use.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The staff of this Department consists of the Commissioner who is *ex officio* Superintendent of Public Works, an Inspector of Works and Roads, a Clerk and Storekeeper, and other employees.

The Department is responsible for the construction, maintenance, and improvement of public buildings, jetties, roads, the telephone service, and water-works, the control and preservation of Government lands and historic sites, the operation and management of the refrigerating and ice plant, and the lighting of the streets of Plymouth and Government House.

In addition to the usual repair of public buildings, streets, roads, bridges, etc., the following works were carried out during the financial period April to December, 1931 :—

(*a*) The construction of a refrigerating and ice plant under loan from the Colonial Development Fund was completed and brought into operation.

(*b*) A public market building, steel framed and covered with galvanized iron, with a floor space of 3,500 square feet, was constructed in the town of Plymouth.

(*c*) The water-supply was extended to the village districts of Banks and Victoria.

(*d*) An addition to the Court House to provide chambers for the Chief Justice and Judges visiting the Presidency on circuit.

(*e*) A road roller (Barford and Perkins BK type) of 4·3 tons rolling weight was obtained for use on the streets and roads.

(*f*) A public latrine was constructed at Wapping in the town of Plymouth.

(*g*) A windmill tower at Tar River Estate was converted into a public hurricane shelter.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

JUSTICE.

Justice is administered by a Magistrate (the Commissioner *ex officio*). Either the Chief Justice from Antigua or the Puisne Judge from Dominica visits the island for the holding of Circuit Courts three times a year. During 1931, the number of cases in all Courts decided by the Magistrate was 1,749. The Circuit Court was particularly heavy during 1931, 42 cases being investigated. The summary jurisdiction of the Magistrate is regulated by Federal Law, and includes the imposition of fines with an alternative of imprisonment or the recovery of the fine by warrant of distress. Power is given to Magistrates in the Colony to order the payment of fines by instalments.

POLICE.

The Police are a small but smart and efficient force consisting of a Sub-Inspector, and 14 non-commissioned officers and men. The Montserrat Division is part of the Leeward Islands Police Force. They were active during the year in rounding up smugglers and obeah men, several convictions being obtained for these offences.

PRISONS.

The prison is always scrupulously clean and neat, and a high standard of discipline is maintained. Unfortunately, the place is much too small, and there is not sufficient room for exercise. For these reasons, male prisoners sentenced to imprisonment for six months or over, and female prisoners to two months or over are sent to the Central Prison at Antigua.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed during the year 1931 :—

1. Appropriation.
2. Housing.
3. Cotton Seed Control Amendment.
4. Public Library.
5. Reafforestation of Lands Ordinance, 1927, Amendment.
6. Cotton Export Duty (Amendment).
7. Appropriation.
8. Supplementary Appropriation.
9. Board of Health (Amendment).
10. Liquor Licences (Amendment).
11. Plymouth Improvement (Amendment).

The following Statutory Rules and Orders were made during the year :—

1. Importation of Animals. 22nd January, 1931.
2. Montserrat Grammar School. 9th March, 1931.
3. Plants Protection. 10th April, 1931.
4. Dangerous Drugs. 23rd April, 1931.
5. Cotton Close Season. 5th May, 1931.
6. Plants Protection. 23rd April, 1931.
7. Montserrat Grammar School. 13th July, 1931.
8. Weights and Measures. 23rd July, 1931.
9. Customs Duties. 13th November, 1931.
10. Cotton Close Season. 25th November, 1931.

There is no factory legislation, or provision for compensation for accidents, sickness, old age, etc.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Presidency for the past five years :—

REVENUE.

Year.	£		£
1927–28	22,426		
1928–29	30,330	Includes receipts from Hurricane Insurance ...	1,681
		,, ,, ,, Imperial Grant	2,500
1929–30	27,389		
1930–31	28,376	Includes receipts from Colonial Development Fund	2,200
		,, ,, ,, from Reserve Fund ...	1,000
Apr. to December 1931	26,083	,, ,, ,, Colonial Development Fund	3,915
		and balance of Reserve Fund	8,734

EXPENDITURE.

Year.	£		£
1927–28	19,986		
1928–29	32,277	Includes hurricane damage	9,243
1929–30	31,007	,, ,, ,, ...	4,128
1930–31	31,196	,, Colonial Development Scheme	2,391
Apr. to December 1931	24,517	,, ,, ,, ,, ...	2,759

The public debt of the Presidency amounted on 31st December, 1931, to £13,000, and the accumulated sinking funds of the various loans amounted on 31st March, 1931, to £8,450.

On 31st December, 1931, the Presidency had no reserve fund, it having been realized in consequence of the deficit in the finances.

The main heads of taxation and the yield of each for the financial period April to December, 1931, are as follows :

	£
Customs	9,451
Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	979
Fees of Court and Office, etc.	839
Posts, Telegraphs, etc.	1,383

There is a Customs tariff, consisting of an *ad valorem* duty of 15 per cent. general and 10 per cent. preferential on imports. Also the following specific duties :—

Import.	*General.*	*Preferential.*
Flour	9s. per 196 lb.	7s. per 196 lb.
Fish, dried	4s. 2d. per 100 lb.	2s. 1d. per 100 lb.
Butter, etc.	15s. ,, ,,	8s. 4d. ,, ,,
Biscuits (unsweetened)	4s. 2d. ,, ,,	2s. 1d. ,, ,,
Lumber, pitch pine ...	12s. 6d. per 1,000 ft.	8s. 4d. per 1,000 ft.

Duties on exports are as follows :—

Cotton—clean lint	1d. per lb.
Cattle	10s. per head.

And other items.

There is an excise duty of 4s. 6d. per proof gallon on rum manufactured locally, and of 4s. 10½d. per proof gallon on rum manufactured in and imported from any of the other Presidencies of the Colony.

Stamp duties are levied under the Federal Stamp Act, on various legal documents, including the probate of wills and letters of administration.

Road tax is payable under the Road Ordinance, 1907, by every male person between the ages of 16 and 60, and the rates are as follows :—

1st class (proprietors, merchants, etc., and public officers with salaries of £50 a year or more, etc.), 10s. a year.

2nd class (tradesmen, clerks, public officers with salaries of £20 a year or more, etc.), 4s. a year.

3rd class (domestic servants, labourers, etc.), 2s. a year.

The tax is payable at the Treasury on or before 30th June in every year. Persons comprising the third class may in lieu of payment of the tax elect to work on the public road for five working days.

In case of default of payment of the tax, or giving of labour on the public roads (in the case of persons in the third class), proceedings are taken before the Magistrate, and the defaulters can be fined with the alternative of imprisonment.

The yield from the tax for the financial period April to December, 1931, was £169.

APPENDIX.

HOUSING.

Province, County, District, or Parish.	*Total population.*	*Number of Separate Dwelling Houses and of Persons inhabiting them.*						*Number of Barracks, Compounds, Tenements, Houses, etc., and of persons inhabiting them.*		*Number of Native Huts and of persons inhabiting them.*	
		Houses of one room.	*Inhabitants.*	*Houses of two rooms.*	*Inhabitants.*	*Houses of three rooms and over.*	*Inhabitants.*	*Barracks, etc.*	*Inhabitants.*	*Huts.*	*Inhabitants.*
St. Anthony's	7,661	455	2,730	384	3,456	123	1,475	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
St. George's ...	2,700	198	1,188	140	1,260	21	252				
St. Peter's ...	1,989	170	1,020	97	873	8	96				
Total ...	12,350	823	4,938	621	5,589	152	1,823				

A Town planning Scheme is in progress by the purchase of land near the Town of Plymouth for residences of the better class.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Virgin Islands were discovered by Columbus in 1493; they consist of a cluster of islands to eastward of and adjacent to Porto Rico; the largest of the group belonging to Great Britain is Tortola, which is situated in 18° 27′ North latitude, and 64° 39′ West longitude. These islands, so far as they are British, became so in 1666.

The British islands (about 32 in number) include Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, Jost Van Dykes, Peter Island, and Salt Island. The total area of the Presidency is about 58 square miles.

The climate is more healthy than that of other West Indian islands and the heat is not so great.

The rainfall during the year was 64·16 inches and was well distributed.

A high wind was experienced on 10th September which caused considerable damage to growing crops.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government is vested solely in the Governor of the Colony. There is an Executive Council consisting of the Commissioner, two official, and two unofficial members, which acts as an advisory body, and for whose advice the Governor frequently calls before enacting any new legislation. In the absence of the Governor the Commissioner, as head of the Civil Service, carries out the duties of the Officer Administering the Government.

During the year the Commissioner was absent from the Presidency for about four months and the Medical Officer, who is the Senior resident member of the Executive Council, was appointed to administer the Government.

III.—POPULATION.

The estimated population was 5,040. The births amounted to 198, or 3·96 per cent. of the population, and the deaths, including still-births, to 83, or 1·65 per cent. of the population. Eleven marriages were performed during the year. Immigration was negligible. The total number of emigrants was 57 or 11·3 per thousand but most of these were to Santo Domingo where they work as labourers and return sooner or later.

IV.—HEALTH.

The health of the Presidency was good as usual. There were no extensive epidemics, only mild ones of dysentery and whooping cough at Virgin Gorda. There were four cases of typhoid without any deaths. Malaria was almost non-existent. There was an increase in respiratory diseases owing to an abnormally wet year. The preponderance of deaths in adults was from chronic heart disease and in infants from gastro-enteritis. A total of 116 were treated in the hospital. There were eight cases of yaws attending for treatment at the end of the year. All returned immigrants were inspected by the Medical Officer.

V.—HOUSING.

The housing conditions in the Virgin Islands, while possibly not ideal, are considerably better than those prevailing elsewhere in the Colony. The average house of the peasant is a sturdy wooden building measuring about 20 feet by 15 feet with an acre or two of arable land. The present living conditions seem eminently suitable to the population which consists almost entirely of small landowners and fishermen. The wage-earning population is very small, being practically restricted to the limits of the town. Sanitary conditions are satisfactory and the general health is good. A local Board of Health controls the general health and sanitation and makes regulations for the general observance of and compliance with the sanitary regulations of larger places, in so far as they are applicable.

Practically all houses are owned by the occupiers and the general conditions may be described as clean and healthy.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The produce consists of live stock, fish, and vegetables. Cattle, horses, sheep, and goats comprise the main items in the live stock industry. Poultry raising is an important secondary industry. The following figures show the estimated annual production, etc. :—

		Produced.	*Exported.*	*Used locally.*
Cattle	Number	1,000	900	100
Sheep	,,	500	450	50
Goats	,,	3,000	2,250	750
Poultry ...	,,	2,000	1,000	1,000
Swine	,,	500	400	100
Fish	lb.	38,000	18,000	20,000
Vegetables	,,	7,000	3,000	4,000

There is no organized production. Practically the entire production is in the hands of individual agriculturists. No arrangements for contract or non-contract labour are in force, and owing to the fact that practically everyone is possessed of his own portion of land paid labour is difficult to obtain.

There is practically no cultivation by European landowners. Cigar-making has been tried, but it did not prove very successful.

The owners of large quantities of land produce a fair amount of sugar-cane which is converted into sugar and rum. The entire output of this industry is consumed locally.

GENERAL.

The economic condition was, generally speaking, unsatisfactory, due to the loss of St. Thomas as a market for local produce; consequently there has been a steady all-round decrease in planting. Fruit and vegetables were plentiful, but the prices realized were disappointing. Under present conditions the Botanic or Experimental Station is a needless expense. Cotton is unsaleable, at least for the present. Cigar-tobacco, although of good quality, has proved unprofitable. Coco-nuts exceed the demand. In short, there is no market for increased quantities of local produce. The raising of stock continues, but sales are slow and prices low. The department maintains a "Kentucky Jack" and small but hardy mules are being raised here again. The demand is poor. Captain Hassell, the only regular purchaser in the past, states that he finds increasing difficulty in disposing of mules and horses however cheap they may be.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The imports during the past five years were :—

	£
1927	28,650
1928	29,789
1929	26,929
1930	14,360
1931	8,967

The trend of imports can be seen from the following table :—

	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	2,497	2,217	1,978	1,918	1,568
United States	5,296	5,801	6,404	4,847	3,571
Leeward Islands*	12,010	15,320	10,782	3,000*	444
Other places (including the Virgin Islands) of the United States of America.	8,847	6,451	7,765	4,595	3,384
	28,650	29,789	26,929	14,360	8,967

* Alcoholic liquors imported.

FLOW OF TRADE.

The Virgin Islands of the United States of America have always bought most of the produce of the British Virgin Islands and they naturally also rank first among the places from which imports come. During the year there has been, however, a marked change in the origin of wheaten flour, one of the chief items of imports. Formerly practically all flour came from the United States of America, but in the year under review Canadian flour has largely supplanted the

American brands. Part of the marked decrease in the amount of the imports is due to the somewhat lower prices which have prevailed during the year. The great drop, however, is obviously due to the practical cessation of the alcoholic liquor trade with the Leeward Islands.

EXPORTS.

The exports during the last five years were :—

	£
1927	12,381
1928	11,799
1929	16,075
1930	11,244
1931	8,424

The following shows the trend of the exports :—

	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	576	59	72	801	11
British West Indies	326	391	4,606*	788	548
Porto Rico and Virgin Islands of the United States of America.	11,479	11,349	11,399	9,655	7,865
Total	12,381	11,799	16,077	11,244	8,424

* Tobacco.

Practically the entire trade is with the Virgin Islands of the United States. During the year, however, a brisk trade with the French Islands of St. Martin and St. Bartholemy in cattle, horses, and mules has been started. There is an intermittent trade with Barbados in the horse and mule trade, but with the increasing use of motor agricultural implements this is gradually lessening.

There seems to be no hope for trade with the United Kingdom in the near future as there are no available means of direct communication (*vide* Chapter X).

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages are at the same high level which obtained towards the close and immediately after the Great War. They range between 50 per cent. and 100 per cent. higher than the rates which are current in the other Presidencies of the Colony as the following list shows :—

Labourers—men	2s. to 2s. 6d. a day.
,, women	1s. 3d. a day.
Carpenters	6s. a day.
Masons	4s. to 6s. a day.
Blacksmiths and tinsmiths ...	6s. a day.
Domestic servants	£1 to £1 12s. 0d. a month.

The cost of living has not decreased considerably. The prices of some commodities are appreciably lower than they were ten years ago, notably in such food-stuffs as meat, milk, and eggs, but on the whole the prevailing prices are high, being based on the current prices at the adjacent island of St. Thomas where American rates rule the market.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

The education in the Presidency is entirely of a primary standard. There are no secondary or technical schools. The various schools are owned by the churches and are run on denominational lines. They are, however, largely assisted by grants from the Public Treasury. These grants amount to £650 per annum. Attendance at school is compulsory for all children between six and twelve years of age. The number of children on the registers of the various schools was 1,332 and the average daily attendance was 913.

There were no prosecutions for non-attendance during the year. School gardens were maintained at all the schools.

The annual examination was held in April when the Federal Inspector of Schools visited the Presidency. The Pupil Teachers' Examination was held in August by the Educational District Officer.

There are no welfare institutions in the Presidency.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

EXTERNAL.

There is no direct ocean communication with the principal ports of the world. All passengers and cargo have to be transhipped at St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands of the United States of America, as no steamers call at Tortola. There is, however, daily communication with St. Thomas by means of small fishing and trading sloops, and a regular weekly service is maintained by the Government, whose motor launch takes less than three hours to do the journey between the two islands.

There is irregular communication with the other islands of the Colony and with Barbados, Trinidad, and the Dutch and French West Indies, by means of schooners and other sailing craft.

INTERNAL.

There are no railways, telegraphs, telephones, or wireless. The horse is the only means of conveyance over the roads which are not built for vehicular traffic.

POSTS.

Twice weekly mails are received from the United Kingdom and the United States of America. They are sent via New York and Porto Rico. The average time taken for delivery of letters from the United Kingdom is about a fortnight after the date of posting. The money order system is in operation and money can be remitted through the Post Office to practically any part of the world.

SHIPPING.

The number of departures of vessels was 1,404 and the number of arrivals 1,421, including 22 schooners or vessels of over 40 tons burthen. There were fewer schooners taking passengers due to the decrease in the number of emigrants leaving the Presidency for Santo Domingo. The schooners chiefly brought sugar from Santo Domingo. The number of departures of emigrants was 57 and the number of immigrants 48. Of the latter 41 were returned labourers from Santo Domingo and 7 were from the United States of America.

The United States ship *Umqua* brought the Governor of the American Virgin Islands to pay a visit to the Presidency. The Dominican steamer *Romanita* brought 16 returned emigrants from Santo Domingo. The British yacht *Uldra* with a crew of two arrived from England via Antigua and Anguilla in December.

In February the Greek steamer *Captain Rokos* stranded on Norman Reef, Anegada, and became a total wreck.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

BANKING.

No commercial banks operate in the Presidency. All banking is done through the Danish National Bank at St. Thomas. There is a local co-operative bank, the "Peasants' Agricultural Bank," the aim of which is to assist temporarily embarrassed agriculturists. This continues to run satisfactorily.

There is a Government Savings Bank in the Presidency, and interest of 2½ per cent. is paid on deposits. The following is a statement of the Bank's transactions during the past two years :—

Year.	*Amount of deposits during the year.*	*Amount of withdrawals during the year.*	*Number of depositors at end of year.*	*Rate of interest.*	*Amount standing to credit of depositors.*
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		Per cent.	£ s. d.
1929–30	1,059 5 6	985 16 10	132	2½	1,382 0 7
1930–31	1,335 19 1	1,087 2 4	141	2½	1,630 17 4

CURRENCY.

In normal times the currency consists almost entirely of Danish and American notes and silver. It is feared that this will have to continue so long as there is no bank in Tortola, as the merchants have to settle their accounts for imported merchandise through the nearest and most convenient medium, viz., the bank at St. Thomas. Added to this, the fact that all imports have to pass through St. Thomas makes it necessary that a fair amount of foreign money must be in circulation as all expenses of freight and landing and shipping charges are quoted in American currency.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The United Kingdom standard of weights and measures is in use in the Presidency.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Annually recurrent work consists of the usual repairs to buildings, wharves, and roads. During the year one small bridge was built at Cane Garden Bay to facilitate traffic during the heavy rains.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The Commissioner is also the Magistrate of the district, and weekly courts are held.

Once a month Summary Court is held by the Deputy Judge (the Commissioner).

The same machinery of justice which obtains in the other islands of the Colony obtains in the Virgin Islands, the basis of the law being the Common Law of England.

There were 129 prosecutions in the criminal side of the Magistrate's Court during the year. Of these 72 were fined, 1 juvenile offender was whipped, 9 were committed to prison, 13 were cautioned, 15 were settled out of court, and 19 were dismissed.

There were 91 suits in the civil side of the Magistrate's Court and 14 in the Summary Jurisdiction Court. Three cases went to the Supreme Court which was held in December with His Honour the Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands sitting as Judge.

Prisoners sentenced to short periods of imprisonment are kept at the local gaol where there is ample provision for sleeping accommodation, etc. The Medical Officer periodically inspects the prisoners and generally looks after their health.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

No new legislation was enacted during the year.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The reserve fund at 31st December, 1931, remained at £10,090 10s. 10d. The investments on account of this fund had a market value of £9,561 15s. 6d. on 31st December, 1931.

Working on the basis as advised by the Financial Adviser, the period opened with :—

	£	s.	d.
Reserve Fund	10,090	10	10
Surplus	2,789	6	2½
or a total surplus of	12,879	17	0½
The expenditure was	5,298	7	2
	7,581	9	10½
The revenue amounted to	4,047	13	1
Leaving a total surplus of	£11,629	2	11½

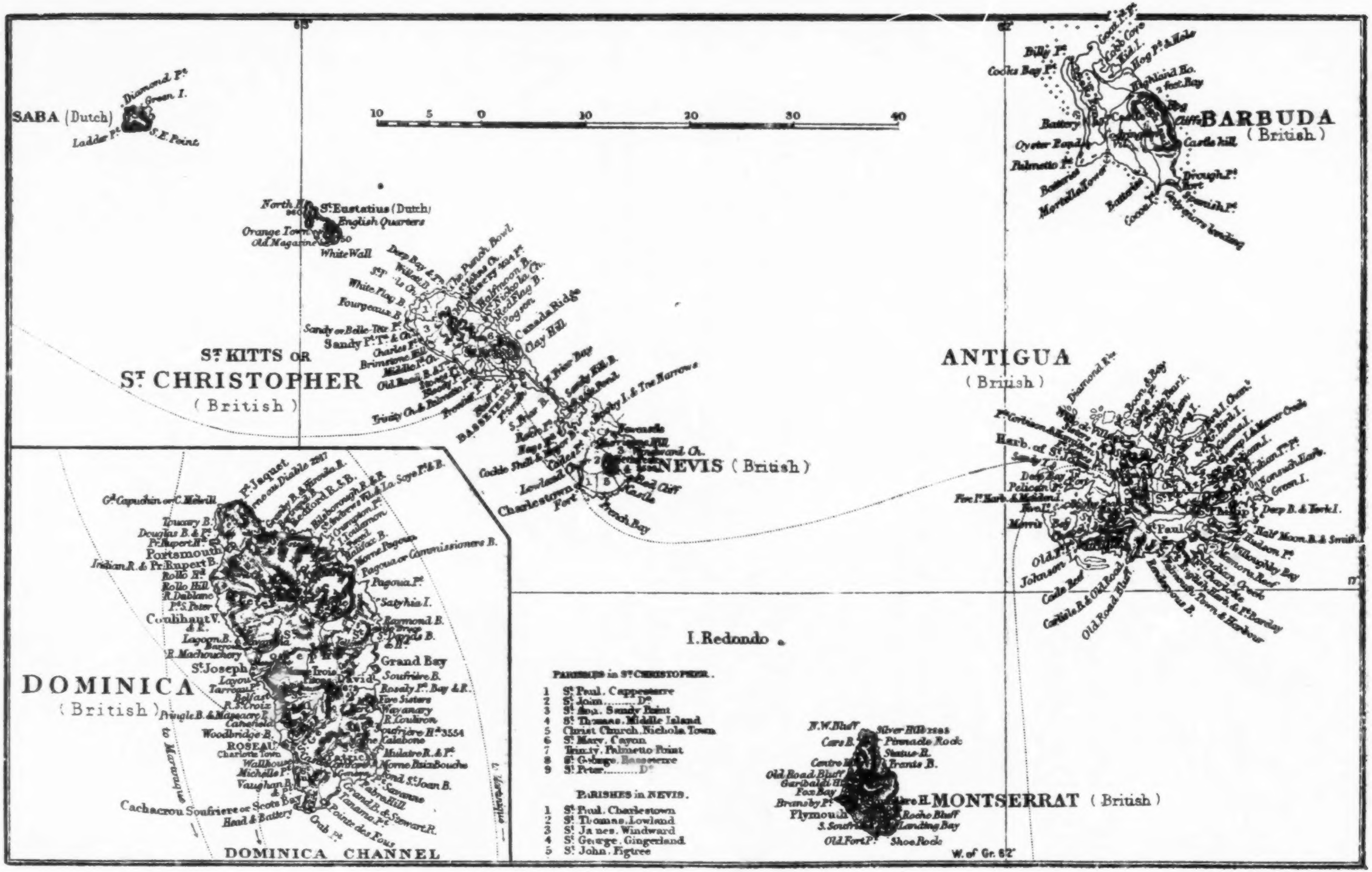
	£	s.	d.
Of this sum the reserve represents	10,090	10	10
and the floating surplus balance	1,538	12	1½
	£11,629	2	11½

The revenue of the Presidency amounted to £4,047 13s. 1d. or £548 6s. 11d. less than the estimated amount. The decrease was due to the practical cessation of the sale of liquor, and to the fact that Canadian flour was imported at the preferential rate of duty instead of the usual foreign (American) flour.

The expenditure amounted to £5,298 7s. 2d. or £284 12s. 10d. less than the estimated figure. There was a decrease in the expenditure on the Agricultural Department of £247 due to the fact that the office of curator was not filled during the greater part of the year.

The Presidency has made no loan and it has no public debt. The value of the imports amounted to £8,967 being £5,393 less than the imports in 1930.

Exports during the year totalled £8,424 or £2,820 less than in 1930.


SABA (Dutch)
Diamond Pt.
Green I.
Ladder Pt.
S.E. Point
10 5 0 10 20 30 40
St. Eustatius (Dutch)
North H.
English Quarters
Orange Town
Old Magazine
White Wall
St. KITTS OR
St. CHRISTOPHER
(British)
BASSETERRE
Deep Bay
The Punch Bowl
Canada Ridge
Clay Hill
Sandy Pt.
Trinity Ch.
NEVIS (British)
Charlestown
Fort
Lowland
Cockle Shell B.
Red Cliff
Castle
French Bay
BARBUDA
(British)
Billy Pt.
Cocks Bay Pt.
Highland Ho.
Castle hill
Palmetto Pt.
Oyster Pond
Battery
Martello Tower
Spanish Pt.
ANTIGUA
(British)
Diamond Rf.
Harb. of St. John's
Pelican Pt.
Green I.
Deep B. & York I.
Half Moon B. & Smith
Hudson Pt.
Willoughby Bay
Johnson
Cade Rf.
Old Road Bluff
Falmouth
English Harb.
Rendezvous B.
St. Paul
I. Redondo
PARISHES in St. CHRISTOPHER.
1 St. Paul, Capesterre
2 St. John .... Do.
3 St. Ann, Sandy Point
4 St. Thomas, Middle Island
5 Christ Church, Nichola Town
6 St. Mary, Cayon
7 Trinity, Palmetto Point
8 St. George, Basseterre
9 St. Peter .... Do.
PARISHES in NEVIS.
1 St. Paul, Charlestown
2 St. Thomas, Lowland
3 St. James, Windward
4 St. George, Gingerland
5 St. John, Figtree
MONTSERRAT (British)
N.W. Bluff
Silver Hill
Pinnacle Rock
Statue B.
Carr B.
Centre B.
Trants B.
Old Road Bluff
Garibaldi H.
Fox Bay
Bransby Pt.
Plymouth
S. Soufriere
Roche Bluff
Landing Bay
Old Fort Pt.
Shoe Rock
W. of Gr. 62°
DOMINICA
(British)
Gd. Capuchin or C. Melvill
Pt. Jaquet
Toucary B.
Douglas B. & Pt.
Pr. Rupert Ht.
Portsmouth
Indian R. & Pr. Rupert B.
Rollo Hd.
Rollo Hill
R. Dablane
Pt. S. Peter
Coulihaut V.
Layou R.
R. Machouchery
St. Joseph
Layou
Tarreau
Pringle B. & Massacre
Woodbridge B.
ROSEAU
Charlotte Town
Wallhouse
Michelle Pt.
Vaughan Pt.
Cachacrou Soufriere or Scots Bay
Head & Battery
Crab Pt.
Pointe des Fous
Grand B. & Stewart R.
Pagoua or Commissioners B.
Pagoua Pt.
Saryhia I.
Raymond B.
Grand Bay
Soufriere B.
Rosaly Pt. Bay & R.
Five Sisters
Wayanary
R. Coulibron
Soufriere Ht. 3554
Calabone
Mulatre R. & Pt.
Morne Bain Bouche
Pond St. Joan B.
Savanne
Pabra Hill
Tanama Pt.
to Martinique
to Martinique
DOMINICA CHANNEL
63°
62°
17°

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR 1932.

I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Colony of the Leeward Islands, with a total area of 704 square miles, consists of a number of islands belonging partly to the Lesser Antilles and partly to the Greater Antilles. Antigua, Barbuda, St. Christopher (St. Kitts), Nevis, and Montserrat lie between West longitude 61 and 63, and around North latitude 17, but Dominica is about 100 miles to the south, separated by the French island of Guadeloupe from the rest. The Virgin Islands, Sombrero, and Anguilla on the other hand lie some distance away to the north-west. The Virgin Islands, St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat, and Dominica are mostly volcanic in origin with mountains rising to 1,780, 3,711, 3,596, 3,002, and 4,550 feet respectively, while Antigua, Barbuda, and Anguilla are sedimentary and are subject to drought.

All the islands are refreshed by the cooling trade winds, though Dominica, with its heavy intervening mountain system, becomes very hot and steamy at certain times of the year. The average rainfall for 1932 was as follows :—Antigua 66 inches, St. Kitts 77 inches, Dominica 80 inches, Montserrat 78 inches, Virgin Islands 88·5 inches. The year was distinctly a " wet " year. The mean temperature is about 80 degrees F.

Politically the Colony is divided into five Presidencies, (*a*) Antigua, with Barbuda and Redonda, (*b*) St. Christopher-Nevis, with Anguilla, (*c*) Dominica, (*d*) Montserrat, and (*e*) the British Virgin Islands (which are in close proximity to the American Virgin Islands). These five Presidencies have been united and separated at various times in their history, and were finally federated in 1871 by an Imperial Act. A Commission, consisting of General Sir Charles Fergusson, Bt., G.C.B., Sir Charles Orr, K.C.M.G., with Mr. McNeill Campbell of the Colonial Office as Secretary, was sent out at the end of 1932 to report upon the possibilities of closer union of the Leeward Islands with other West Indian Colonies.

From a historical point of view the Leeward Islands Colony is probably the most interesting in the Empire.

St. Kitts was the first island in the West Indies to be systematically colonized by the English, Sir Thomas Warner, captain of the King's Body Guard, bringing out a number of farmers and artizans for that purpose in 1623. In 1666, 1689, and 1782 it was captured by the French, and in the latter year the famous defence of Brimstone Hill took place, a gallant action which ultimately enabled Rodney to defeat the French fleet at " The Saints " and save the then Colonial Empire.

In Nevis in 1787, Nelson, then aged 25 and acting as Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands Naval Station, married the young and attractive widow Nisbet, who survived him. In 1757 Alexander Hamilton, the founder of the American Constitution, was born in Nevis, the son of a Scottish planter.

Antigua is the headquarters of the Colony, the residence of the Governor, and also of the Archbishop of the West Indies. The island was settled by Sir Thomas Warner's son in 1632, and only once, in 1666, was it captured by the French. At Antigua is the historic old Naval Dockyard, first built in 1725, where Nelson lived between 1785 and 1787. It lies in a romantic narrow inlet, English Harbour, and is to-day just as it was left when the last of the old frigates was warped out. Efforts are now being made to preserve the ruined buildings so that it may be an Empire memorial to the Navy of the famous days of " England's wooden walls."

Dominica was originally declared as neutral territory between the French and English, but became English by the Treaty of Paris in 1763. In 1771 it was made a separate Colony, but was rejoined to the Leeward Islands in 1832. During that period, however, it was captured and held by the French for five years until restored to England by the Treaty of Versailles in 1783.

In 1805 the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (the old 46th) and the local Militia distinguished themselves in a gallant resistance to General La Grange and a great invading force.

Montserrat was settled by Sir Thomas Warner in 1632, but was captured (and subsequently restored) by the French in 1666 and 1782.

The Virgin Islands were first settled by Dutch farmers, who became buccaneers in 1648. English buccaneers drove them out in 1666, and in 1672 the islands were absorbed into the Leeward Islands Colony. But for a long time " Dead Man's Chest," Anegada, and other islands were the haunts of pirates.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

There is one Governor-in-Chief of the Colony, and his representatives in the Presidencies of St. Christopher-Nevis and Dominica are styled Administrators, and in those of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, Commissioners.

The Colony possesses Federal Executive and Legislative Councils, the members of the former and the official members of the latter being appointed by the Crown, while the unofficial members of the Federal or General Legislative Council (three each from Antigua and St. Christopher-Nevis, two from Dominica, and one from Montserrat) are elected by and from the nominated unofficial members of the Legislatures of their respective Presidencies. There is also a nominated unofficial member for the Virgin Islands on the General Legislative Council.

Each Presidency has an Executive and Legislative Council, with the exception of the Virgin Islands, which has only an Executive Council. The Presidential Legislative Councils have concurrent legislative powers with the General Legislative Council on specified subjects so far as their " Ordinances " are not repugnant to the " Acts " of the latter. Each Legislative Council is limited to three years' duration.

The Antigua Legislative Council, previously partly elected and partly nominated, passed an Act in 1898 abrogating itself and substituting the Crown Colony system. By an Ordinance of 1910 the duration of the Council is limited to three years.

The St. Kitts and Nevis forms of Legislative Council, partly elected and partly nominated, were abolished by an Act of 1878, and the Crown Colony system substituted.

The Dominica Legislative Council, like the Antigua one, was changed to the Crown Colony form in 1898, but in 1924 an Ordinance was passed allowing for the election of four of the unofficial members.

The Montserrat Legislative Council was changed to the Crown Colony system in 1866.

There has been no Legislative Council in the Virgin Islands since 1902.

Municipal Government.—In Antigua (St. John's) there is a (partly unofficial) municipal body called the " City Commissioners " ; in Dominica (Roseau and Portsmouth) there is a partly elected Town Board in the former place, and a nominated Town Board in the latter.

III.—POPULATION.

The estimated population on 31st December, 1932, was as follows :—

		Area (Sq. miles).	*Principal Town (approximate population).*
Antigua ...	... 31,162	108	St. John's (7,000).
Barbuda	... 982	60	—
St. Kitts...	... 18,730	68	Basseterre (9,000).
Nevis ...	... 12,899	50	Charlestown (1,200).
Anguilla	... 5,101	35	—
Dominica	... 44,103	305	Roseau (7,500).
Montserrat	... 12,880	32	Plymouth (1,800).
Virgin Islands ...	5,209	58	Road Town (400).
Total	... 131,066	716	

The decennial census of 1931 was not taken in view of the financial condition of the Colony in that year, but the members of the different races at the time of the previous census were as stated below, and although the population has now generally increased it is probable that the proportions are about the same.

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Mont-serrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*
White ...	914	1,219	556	112	36
Coloured ...	3,999	6,204	11,563	2,503	1,158
Black ...	24,854	30,791	24,940	9,505	3,888

The birth and death rates per 1,000 are as follows :—

	Birth-rate.	*Death-rate.*	*Infant Mortality.*
Antigua and Barbuda	38·1	20·0	93
St. Kitts	43·9	27·5	166·7
Nevis	28·8	12·3	102·2
Anguilla	40·8	8·5	52·8
Dominica	36·6	18·02	87·78
Montserrat	37·8	15·3	156
Virgin Islands ...	39·65	23·31	136

Infantile mortality for the past five years has been as follows :—

	1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
Antigua and Barbuda...	194	151	191	185	93
St. Kitts	305	200	186	185	167
Nevis	287	204	156	186	102
Anguilla	114	71	130	92	53
Dominica	142	198	124	170	88
Montserrat	143	113	78	172	89
Virgin Islands ...	105	61	83	101	136

The emigration and immigration figures of the Colony about balance during recent years. Before the embargo on free emigration to the United States, Cuba, and Curaçao, the emigration figures considerably outnumbered those of immigration. There is still a certain amount of emigration for work on the sugar estates in the Dominican Republic, but it is seasonal and the men usually return the same year.

IV.—HEALTH.

General.

The Colony, which from November to May is only semi-tropical, is gradually becoming known as a health resort, and more visitors are coming yearly, especially during the winter months, from the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States of Americ

Good hospitals are established in the principal centres, and there are twenty-three Government Medical Officers stationed throughout the Colony. There is also a system of village dispensaries. Water supplies in most of the islands are good and plentiful. Legislation regarding bakeries and dairies is in force, and the meat markets are regularly inspected. The ordinary diseases found in tropical countries prevail, but not usually in a serious form. There is a central Lunatic Asylum (130 patients) at Antigua, and Leper Homes at Antigua (32 patients) and St. Kitts (50 patients). Cases of ankylostomiasis, filariasis, dysentery, yaws, and malaria are found in varying numbers, the latter being more marked in 1932 owing to the excessive rainfall in that year.

Tuberculosis and venereal diseases are frequently found among the poorer classes, but special clinics have lately been established with very satisfactory results.

Infant welfare has received much attention recently, and creches have been set up in many centres. The teeth of the school children in the larger islands have also been receiving special care from travelling dentists subsidized by the Government. Homes for the aged and infirm are now established in Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, and Dominica.

Antigua.

The Health Campaign, paid for from Colonial Development funds and under the guidance of Maj.-General Barrow, C.B., has continued its excellent work. The bacteriological laboratory, which was part of the scheme, has been found most useful. There were 2,287 examinations made, 868 of which were blood films for malaria, 496 Kahn tests, 191 differential blood counts, 39 Widal tests, and various other tests.

The venereal diseases clinic, established in the denser quarter of the town, has continued its good work, but the people still need educating as to the desirability of avoiding quack and harmful remedies.

Infant welfare is arranged for at the central creche (a voluntary organization) in St. John's and at three Government creches in the villages of All Saints, Bolans, and Cedar Grove. These creches are usually full. Free dental inspection and treatment at the Government schools has been continued and is a very valuable adjunct to the child welfare of the community.

Sanitation.—Forty communal latrines have been established in the villages, and the people are slowly but surely being educated into more sanitary habits. Additional concrete drains have been laid down in some of the villages. Two extra Sanitary Inspectors have been engaged, and the others have been given special courses of instruction. All the above, with the exception of the St. John's creche, are activities of the Colonial Development Fund health campaign, which unfortunately has to terminate in the middle of 1933. As far as is possible it is being arranged for the local Government to continue to finance these sections of the work.

Mortality and disease.—There were 1,224 births and 642 deaths during the year. Towards the end of the year, owing to the abnormal rains, there occurred an epidemic of malaria, which fortunately only lasted a few months. There were 3,200 cases during the year, with 49 deaths in all. Special measures were taken as follows :—25 additional sanitary staff were engaged and a thorough cleaning up and drainage in the villages was made. All stagnant water was treated with Paris green or oil. Quinine was freely distributed without charge. Most of the cases were of the subtertian type. There was very little spleen enlargement, but almost invariably gastric symptoms, and there was a good deal of acute nephritis. There were some cerebral cases, but not a single case of blackwater fever. Excellent results were obtained in the severer cases by intra-muscular injections of quinine.

Hospital.—There is a good modern hospital, with 80 beds (capable of more if required). It has an X-ray room. There were 538 males and 605 females admitted during the year. The average duration in hospital was 15 days. There were 94 deaths. The number of major operations was 153, and minor operations 232. There were 21 ophthalmic cases and 6 cases of eclampsia.

Home for the aged and infirm (Fiennes Institute).—65 males and 57 females were admitted. There were 66 deaths, chiefly from diseases incidental to old age.

Dispensaries.—There are now fourteen Government dispensaries in Antigua and one in Barbuda. There are 26 Government District Nurses, who are also midwives.

There is a Quarantine Station and, as already mentioned, a Leper Home and a Lunatic Asylum, the latter being a Federal institution.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

As in Antigua, there is a Health Officer (Dr. E. P. Minett), temporarily paid from Colonial Development funds. His activities have been somewhat curtailed by lack of funds, but lately a grant has been made to establish a bacteriological laboratory on somewhat the same lines as in Antigua. He is also about to start a venereal diseases clinic.

Infant welfare in 1932 was continued on well-organized lines under the supervision of a Government Matron, assisted by local committees. There are two creches in Basseterre and others at Old Road, Sandy Point, St. Paul's, and Cayon villages.

Mortality and Disease.—1932 was not an abnormal year as regards disease, and with the exception that malaria was somewhat prevalent in Nevis the Presidency as a whole was in a healthy condition. There were 709 deaths and 1,402 births. Still-births numbered 84.

Hospitals.—There is a central hospital at Basseterre, 91 beds (including a 6-bed maternity annexe), and a useful emergency hospital (16 beds) at Sandy Point. There are also hospitals at Nevis (40 beds) and at Anguilla (8 beds). Dispensaries are provided in various parts of the medical districts. Homes for the aged and infirm are established at Basseterre (50 beds) and at Nevis (12 beds). There is a Leper Home (50 inmates) in the Sandy Point district.

Staff.—St. Kitts is divided into four medical districts and Nevis into two. The Medical Officer at Anguilla is also the Resident Magistrate. There are 23 District Nurses, who are also midwives. There are several Sanitary Inspectors. Additional dispensaries are established in various parts of the districts.

Dominica.

The services of the Health Officer, paid from Colonial Development funds, terminated in March, since when the general administration of health matters has been taken on by the Chief Medical Officer.

There is a creche established in Roseau and also a special Infant Welfare Centre in Portsmouth.

Mortality and Disease.—There were 1,617 births (including 102 still-born) and 694 deaths during the year. Malaria was again somewhat prominent and 75 deaths were attributed to it, but it was less prevalent than in 1931.

Hospitals.—There is a central hospital in Roseau with 103 beds; 1,252 patients were admitted during the year. At Portsmouth Hospital (33 beds) 415 patients were admitted. At Marigot (6 beds) 138 patients were admitted. At Grand Bay (4 beds) 84 patients were admitted. There is also a home for the aged and infirm at Roseau. There are 19 dispensaries distributed among the medical districts.

Staff.—There are four District Medical Officers under a Chief Medical Officer (who is also the Superintendent of the Roseau Hospital). There are three District Nurses, who are also midwives, and four Sanitary Inspectors, one for each medical district.

During the year, two new wards, provided from Colonial Development funds, were established at the Roseau Hospital, one for maternity cases (16 beds) and one for tuberculosis cases (10 beds). These should prove very valuable additions to the Hospital.

Montserrat.

Mortality and Disease.—There were 487 births and 197 deaths during the year. The year was a healthy one and no special epidemics were recorded. There were 15 deaths from tuberculosis and 8 from typhoid fever.

Hospitals, etc.—The new Hospital, built in 1930, continued to prove most valuable. There is also a home for the aged and infirm in the island, and a Quarantine Station.

Infant welfare.—The Hospital Matron periodically travels about the island helping and inspecting the work of the two District Nurse-Midwives. It is to be regretted that funds would not allow a continuance of the visiting Dentist for the Government schools.

Staff.—Two Medical Officers divide the medical work of the island and also supervise the sanitation, which is directly under Sanitary Inspectors.

Virgin Islands.

Mortality and Disease.—There were 209 births and 117 deaths (10 being still-births) during the year. In the latter half of the year, owing to abnormal rains, there occurred, as in other Presidencies, an epidemic of malaria, 49 cases being admitted to hospital. There were 19 deaths from this disease (two being hospital cases) throughout the Presidency. Anegada Island, however, had no cases. The disease was of the malignant type and was frequently associated with acute nephritis and jaundice. Splenic enlargement was found in about half the cases.

Hospitals.—The only hospital, at Roadtown, with 9 beds, had 186 cases of various accidents and illnesses admitted, averaging ten days' duration in hospital, with 12 deaths. One major and nineteen minor operations were performed.

Staff.—The Medical Staff of the Presidency consists of a District Medical Officer, a Hospital Matron with two Nurses, and a Dispenser at Anegada Island. The Police Corporal is the Sanitary Inspector.

V.—HOUSING.

Antigua.

There are no building societies in the Colony, and in view of the unsuitable type of hut existing in most of the villages and in the town slums, an application was made to the Colonial Development Advisory Committee towards the end of 1929 for assistance in connection with a Housing Scheme for Antigua ; and a grant of £6,500 with a loan of a similar amount was made from the Colonial Development Fund. A model village, subsequently named the St. Johnston Village, was started in 1930, and this has been developed in a very satisfactory manner during 1931 and 1932, there now being a good-sized village with seven tree-lined roads, a school, post office, and recreation ground. The development of this village is still going on. There are also a District Nurse and a Rural Constable resident there. The houses are mainly of the standard type (reinforced concrete, with three rooms and a verandah, also a separate kitchen and latrine for each house) built from the Colonial Development Fund money, but respectable persons are encouraged to put up other houses for themselves provided that the house is of sufficiently good size and quality. The house plots are each 100 ft. by 50 ft. The Colonial Development Fund houses are sold on the hire-purchase system, at 10s. a month, extending over a period of 20 years but with the option of paying off the whole or any portion at any earlier period with a proportionate discount allowed. The scheme is a "revolving" one, and instalment moneys are set aside to build further houses. Rules made under the Antigua Housing Ordinance of 1930 govern the conditions. These houses are attractive looking and are earthquake, hurricane, and fire proof. They are also very sanitary and easily disinfected. Special arrangements are made for permanent ventilation, noticeably absent in most of the other small houses, especially when all doors and windows are kept shut at night as is the custom. In addition to the model village, similar houses under the same scheme have been erected on the Antigua Land Settlement area at Greencastle, and also at the village of All Saints and in other places. One of the most valuable aspects of the scheme is that it has already proved to be an encouragement and incentive to others of the artisan and peasant class to build new houses for themselves, and a much improved type of house is rapidly springing up over the island, even during these years of financial depression.

St. Kitts.

A model housing scheme was started here early in 1929 under Ordinance 1 of that year; and in 1930 it was combined with a scheme financed from Colonial Development funds on lines similar to the one in Antigua. These houses, somewhat smaller than those of Antigua, cost £122 each excluding the price of the land, and are sold on the hire-purchase system at 10s. a month over a period of fifteen years.

Dominica.

In Dominica there is as yet no definite housing scheme. In 1930 it was recommended to the Dominica Government that a scheme similar to those of Antigua and St. Kitts should be started, but after consideration it was reported from Dominica that other matters were more pressing, and that in any event the labouring classes were in different circumstances from those of Antigua and St. Kitts, and in most cases already had suitable houses on their own plots of land. Eventually, however, a modified scheme costing £750 for the purchase of 25 steel frames for home-made single-room wooden huts of 12 ft. by 10 ft. was proposed by the Dominica authorities, but this was not approved by the Colonial Development Advisory Committee. It is hoped that a revised scheme will in due course be prepared, but at the present time it is inadvisable to burden any of the Presidencies with additions to the public debt, nor are the people in a position to incur financial liabilities. There is no doubt, however, that some of the villages, especially Pointe Michel, are badly in need of model houses and a town-planning system.

Montserrat.

In 1930 a Loan of £5,000 was approved from the Colonial Development Fund for a model housing scheme on lines somewhat similar to those of Antigua and St. Kitts. Small two-roomed reinforced concrete cottages, each 16 ft. by 10 ft., are being built at a cost of £50 each and sold on the hire-purchase system spread over twenty years or less at the purchaser's option. Some of the houses are situated on a piece of town extension land formally opened by the Governor in May, 1932.

Virgin Islands.

Nearly all the people are of the agricultural peasant class, with their own wooden houses, of a fairly good type and averaging 20 ft. by 15 ft. in size, situated on their own pieces of land. There is only one small township, Road Town, with no overcrowding.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

General.

Sugar, cotton, limes, coconuts, cocoa, and table vegetables are the chief products of the Leeward Islands. Climatic conditions, and a generally heavy and well-distributed rainfall, were favourable to the 1932 crops throughout the Colony, but the prices realized were very low and discouraging. The following table summarizes the produce of the whole Colony for 1932 compared with the preceding year. It excludes some of the less important products :—

	Quantities.		*Value in £.*	
	1931.	*1932.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
Sugar (tons)	17,000	39,137	146,110	379,582
Molasses (gals.)	624,000	1,217,105	6,474	15,753
Cotton (lb.)	835,100	414,711	43,198	18,125
Cotton Seed (tons)	711	176	2,642	727
Lime juice, raw (gals.)	116,100	92,959	4,977	4,439
Lime oil, distilled (lb.)	14,445	12,226	21,767	17,079
Lime oil, ecuelled (lb).	2,644	617	5,780	677
Limes, fresh (barrels)	11,357	9,147	13,799	11,187
Coconuts	94,255	201,510	657	865
Copra (lb.)	45,500	107,107	269	1,112
Cocoa (lb.)	218,773	269,099	1,598	1,837
Bay Oil (lb.)	17,783	20,915	4,539	3,683
Mangoes (boxes)	4,006	6,743	1,043	1,496
Oranges (barrels)	1,757	6,583	1,329	2,236
Grape fruit (crates)	1,531	3,954	798	1,937
Avocado Pears (crates)	670	1,254	201	276
Tomatoes (crates of 20 lb.)	17,331	26,229	2,962	4,481
Onions (lb.)	21,688	131,814	227	874
Tamarinds (barrels)	401	520	377	456
Rum (gals.)	1,380	11,520	252	1,587
Salt (tons)	2,316	759	1,668	655
Cattle	575	—	3,155	—
Sheep	195	—	—	—

Antigua.

There are two modern sugar factories, one at Gunthorpes, owned by the Antigua Sugar Factory Company (Henckel, Dubuisson Co.), and one at Bendals owned by the South Western Estates Company. The capacity of the former is approximately 22,000 tons and of the latter 4,000 tons. There were 19,168 tons of crystal sugar, of approximately 96° polarization, manufactured during 1932, as well as a small quantity of muscovado sugar at a minor factory. (The Antigua Sugar Factory is a 14-roller mill and can make a ton of sugar from less than 8 tons of cane.) The average yield of cane per acre was 19½ tons. There were also 758,000 gallons of molasses made. The sugar is sold either to England or to Canada to be refined. The gyrotiller plough, bought for £6,000 the previous year by the Antigua Sugar Factory, with some assistance from the Colonial Development Fund, was not able to work to its full capacity owing to the saturated nature of the land in 1932, but what it did do was considered as highly satisfactory. The Antigua Sugar Factory owns about 38 miles of 2½ ft. gauge and the Bendals Factory about 8 miles of 2 ft. gauge railway, to bring in the canes from the estates over the island. Estates vary between 80 and 400 acres (reaping area). The factory makes a first payment of 5½ per cent. on the f.o.b. price of sugar, and finally distributes half the profits. The approximate cost of production per ton of sugar is fairly constant as regards the *manufacturing* expenditure, which has been brought down by the Antigua Sugar Factory to about £2 14s. 8d., but with regard to the *growing* of the cane the cost varies considerably, and in a year of poor cane-yields the planting costs will rise to a very much higher figure than in a year when the yield per acre is high.

The Agricultural Department had an exceptionally busy year in 1932 owing to the general extension of agricultural activities throughout the island, due to the good rainfall, coupled with the full development of the new Experimental Station and the Land Settlement scheme. From the Experimental Station 211,156 sugar-cane cuttings were distributed in Antigua, and also by special request 754 cuttings were sent to other islands. Likewise, 26,770 tomato, 8,700 onion, and 493 lime seedlings were distributed, the latter being mostly grafted or budded. A great deal of nursery work was carried on at the Station, and also many varietal and cultural sugar-cane experiments. Experiments at this Station tend to show that the "flat" method of cane planting is more likely to germinate under wet conditions and the "vertical" method under dry conditions. Careful experiments were also made with different kinds of artificial and natural manures and their applications to different types of soils. The introduction of the fly parasite *Lyxophaga Diatraeae* (commenced in the previous year to keep down the moth borer *Diatraea saccharalis*) appears to be most successful, and the final result is awaited with considerable confidence. The reduction of the moth borer pest should make a very great difference to the island's sugar output. This work is carried on under Mr. H. E. Box, from Farnham Royal, being part of Dr. Myers' insect pest work in the West Indies, and is financed from Colonial Development funds.

Although a very good year for the growth of vegetable foods for the people and for the sugar-cane crop, 1932 was not a satisfactory year for the minor agricultural industries, owing to the financial depression in purchasing countries. 852 crates (17,040 lb.) of choice tomatoes were shipped to Canada at the beginning of the year, but the sale prices hardly paid for the cost of production. Sea island cotton not only suffered from the abnormal rainfall and from pink boll worm, but the amount that was produced (35,300 lb. grown from 500 acres) remained unsold throughout the year. The bulk of the cotton crop is grown by peasants and is purchased on a co-operative basis at a central ginnery. A first payment is made on the nominal prices ruling in England and ultimately 75 per cent. of the profits are paid over as a bonus.

It is unfortunate that in 1932 the financial results of the minor industries were not satisfactory, but this was due to abnormal world conditions. In normal times there is no reason why these minor industries should not flourish, and it is of the utmost importance that they should be encouraged, as there is a very grave risk in Antigua having all its eggs in one basket, and if the sugar industry should at any time collapse the whole population would be in a desperate position. At present some 17,000 acres (out of about 19,000 acres which are cultivated in the whole island) are under sugar, 97 per cent. of the exports are sugar, and about 90 per cent. of the labouring population are directly or indirectly dependent on sugar.

For this reason a Peasants' Land Settlement Committee was set up in 1929, under the chairmanship of the Governor, and early in 1930 a grant of £3,000 and a loan of £3,000 were obtained from the Colonial Development Fund to acquire and sub-divide certain large estates. Greencastle, Mathews, and Bedgebury were purchased, a total area of some 1,700 acres, and during the next two years these were surveyed, drained, and partly ploughed; and then peasant families were placed on the allotments, which were—like the Housing Scheme—on the hire-purchase system. By the end of 1932 most of Greencastle and portions of Mathews and Bedgebury were taken up in approximately 5-acre lots, and in a number of cases model cottages on the lots were also erected at the request of the allottees. The Government Agricultural Experimental Station was transferred to Greencastle so that it might become a visible model and lesson to the settlers surrounding it, and in addition to this, a special model allotment was made in the neighbourhood, and planted up, and careful records of revenue and expenditure taken, by the Agricultural Department. The Agricultural Superintendent and his officers pay constant visits to the peasants' holdings, and at intervals the Superintendent gives lectures at the Station to the peasants on practical agriculture. He also gives periodical agricultural lectures to the school teachers of the island, which they can pass on to the children in the schools. By this means it is hoped to establish in early life the rudiments of agricultural training among the labouring population. By the end of 1932 ninety-four family holdings were in full occupation at Greencastle and sixty-four at the Mathews-Bedgebury settlements. Many others have been applied for. Some of the peasants at the latter have availed themselves of the gyrotiller plough, which is hired out, with its mechanics, at the rate of £2 an acre.

The following table shows the relative production of the principal crops in Antigua over a period of five years :—

	1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
Sugar (tons)	19,668	10,755	18,267	4,977	19,168
,, (value) ... ... £	255,684	139,815	189,429	48,197	182,116
,, acreage of cane reaped ...	9,731	8,885	9,155	7,865	7,936
Molasses (gals.)	573,300	270,800	40,000	33,758	757,701
,, (value) ... ... £	—	1,956	1,482	715	12,782
Cotton (lb.)	17,700	61,540	72,497	131,700	22,500
,, (value) ... ... £	1,770	5,641	5,190	6,585	936
Cotton Seed (tons)	20½	31	20	60	—
,, ,, (value) ... £	110	161	75	360	—
Lime Juice, raw (gals.) ...	840	1,120	—	—	1,280
,, ,, ,, (value) £	42	56	—	—	75
Lime Juice, concentrated (gals.)	2,350	1,440	300	—	—
,, ,, ,, (value) £	457	300	32	—	—
Lime Oil, distilled (lb.) ...	—	—	288	432	1,008
,, ,, ,, (value) £	—	—	416	438	3,808
Limes, fresh (barrels)	—	190	214	51	173
,, ,, (value) ... £	—	238	214	47	144
Tomatoes (crates of 20 lb.) ...	—	—	—	365	815
,, (value) ... £	—	—	—	130	196
Onions (lb. or crates of 50 lb.)	1,650 crates.	11,850	371 crates.	—	1,805 crates.
(value) ... ... £	—	148	185	—	574
Tamarinds (barrels)	—	—	1,641	397	520
,, (value) ... £	611	4	1,641	348	456
Coconuts	—	—	—	—	5,800
,, (value) ... £	—	—	—	—	36

St. Kitts-Nevis.

There is one central modern sugar factory, owned by the Basseterre Sugar Factory Company (Henckel, Dubuisson Co.), of a capacity of approximately 20,000 tons. It is connected to the various sugar estates by a narrow-gauge railway encircling the island. 19,969 tons of crystal sugar, a record for the island, of approximately 96 degrees polarization, were made from 165,000 tons of canes reaped from about 6,500 acres, an average yield of over 25 tons to the acre. A small quantity of muscovado sugar and syrup was produced in Nevis.

Sea-island cotton, a catch crop between sugar seasons, is the next most important product of St. Kitts. Owing to poor prices (about 1s. a lb.), there was a considerable reduction in the area planted, and only 35,000 lb. were produced from 200 acres.

Nevis and Anguilla are essentially islands of peasant holders, who usually find cotton a useful crop, but there, also, the planting area was much reduced, 24,000 lb. being grown from 250 acres in the former and 26,000 lb. from 218 acres in the latter.

The new tomato industry, as in Antigua, received a set-back from the low prices offering in Canada, and though 29,360 lb. were produced early in the year in St. Kitts and 23,620 lb. in Nevis, the area prepared for the 1933 crop was much reduced.

There are Experimental Stations under the charge of Agricultural Officers at St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla, and they all did useful work during the year. A Land Settlement scheme, financed from Colonial Development funds, has been started in Nevis and a smaller one, locally financed, in Anguilla.

The following table shows the relative production of the principal crops in St. Kitts-Nevis over a period of five years :—

		1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
Sugar (tons)	...	18,610	12,736	17,637	12,021	19,969
„ (value)	£	265,490	150,153	178,654	110,234	197,466
Molasses (gals.) ...	...	339,290	—	9,495	589,700	459,404
„ (value)	£	1,710	—	—	5,759	2,971
Cotton (lb.)	...	438,552	709,619	778,761	245,500	85,018
„ (value)	£	36,038	66,407	65,484	12,364	4,250
Cotton Seed (tons) ...	...	138	383	364	388	35
„ „ (value) ...	£	596	1,317	1,837	1,363	290
Coconuts	...	312,648	1,668	16,144	43,900	78,770
„ (value) ...	£	2,040	10	100	256	445
Tomatoes (lb.)	...	—	—	—	151,900	53,000
„ (value) ...	£	—	—	—	1,352	524
Salt (tons)	...	1,394	1,276	1,492	2,316	759
„ (value)	£	2,613	2,373	2,984	2,505	655

Dominica.

For many years the cultivation of the lime fruit was, except for a certain amount of cocoa, almost the sole industry of Dominica. Lime products, estimated in the equivalent of barrels of limes, reached their zenith in 1921 with 500,000 barrels, but since then several hurricanes and two diseases (withertip and red root) have played havoc with the trees. On the top of all this, citrate of lime is now being made synthetically and Sicilian lemon-juice has largely taken the place of Dominican lime-juice. Imperial grants-in-aid and agricultural loans have been made to resuscitate the industry. The Agricultural Department and the planters have made heroic efforts in budding thousands of lime trees on to sour orange stock, the results of which are expected to withstand hurricane and disease, but it is doubtful whether the old good prices for lime products will ever return. Attention in recent years has been much turned to other citrus fruits and a useful export trade is developing. All fruit, except some going to the United States of America, has to pass through a central Government marketing depot, where it is cleaned, graded, packed, and marked by means of very modern machinery. There is also a good cold-storage plant attached.

Though there are a few large estates, most of the planting in Dominica is carried out on small peasant holdings. A useful Experimental Station has been established on the Copt Hall Estate and much good agricultural work is also done in a portion of the famous Dominica Botanical Gardens.

The following table shows the relative production of the principal crops in Dominica over a period of five years :—

		1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
Limes, total crop estimated as " barrels "		205,000	133,000	114,000	68,000	48,000
Limes, green or fresh (barrels)		26,830	16,896	17,461	10,867	8,394
,, ,, ,, (value)	£	24,743	23,359	26,191	13,584	10,418
Lime Juice, raw (gals.) ...		306,090	475,102	195,994	93,255	62,545
,, ,, ,, (value)...	£	20,947	47,509	9,800	3,886	2,911
Lime Juice, concentrated (gals.)		90,731	35,446	45,832	3,211	5,561
,, ,, ,, (value)	£	20,726	8,122	5,729	241	193
Lime Oil, distilled (lb.) ...		32,174	30,804	25,667	14,446	11,218
,, ,, ,, (value)	£	37,192	41,585	34,664	21,668	13,271
Lime Oil, ecuelled (lb.) ...		7,677	5,256	1,551	2,158	617
,, ,, ,, (value)	£	15,383	17,081	4,216	4,611	677
Bay Oil (lb.)		13,407	18,349	15,948	17,783	20,915
,, ,, (value)	£	2,961	4,358	3,987	4,447	3,683
Oranges (crates and barrels) ...		unrecorded	1,604	524	3,214	6,583
,, (value)	£	,,	1,196	424	1,971	2,236
Grapefruit (crates)		,,	1,249	917	1,531	3,954
,, (value) ...	£	,,	829	458	767	1,937

		1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
Avocado Pears (crates) ...	...	unrecorded	1,568	1,090	670	1,254
„ „ (value) ...	£	„	817	454	179	276
Mangoes (crates) ...	...	„	5,309	3,363	4,006	6,743
„ (value)	£	„	2,132	1,402	995	1,496
Cocoa (lb.)	...	—	275,145	409,536	218,773	269,099
„ (value)	£	—	3,999	6,826	1,595	1,837
Coconuts	...	253,217	63,662	96,802	50,355	116,840
„ (value) ...	£	1,058	199	404	344	384
Copra (lb.)	...	184,496	57,223	113,831	45,526	107,107
„ (value)	£	3,156	390	1,067	351	1,112
Rum (gals.) ...	...	403	54	68	1,380	11,520
„ (value)	£	66	12	16	252	1,587
Vanilla (lb.)	...	2,964	3,650	7,678	114	1,974
„ (value)	£	716	730	2,112	29	395
Bananas (bunches) ...	...	—	488	2,453	1,556	9,019
„ (value) ...	£	—	61	368	154	422

Montserrat.

The very rainy year of 1932, though favourable to sugar and certain fruit and vegetable crops in the Colony, was unfavourable to the sea-island cotton on which Montserrat so much depends. The acreage planted was reduced to 1,500, and the yield was only 125 lb. to the acre. In addition to this, the prices were very low, averaging about 10d. per lb. for lint. The lime crop, from 1,000 acres, was, however, more favourable and the export trade to Canada was extended. The tomato exports to Canada were large, 22,764 crates, but here again the prices made the industry barely worth while. 50 acres were put in onions. Montserrat is essentially an island of peasant holders, 94 per cent. of the land-owners having less than 10 acres. There are only 38 owners of over 100 acres. The following table shows the relative production of the principal crops in Montserrat over a period of five years :—

		1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
Cotton (lb.)	...	863,025	616,389	709,061	400,389	187,131
„ (value)	£	74,637	68,900	53,009	24,249	12,939
„ acreage planted ...	...				3,400	1,500
Cotton Seed (tons) ...	...	198	145	208	263	141
„ „ (value) ...	£	926	926	1,024	919	437
Limes, Green or fresh (barrels)		56	40	—	292	580
„ „ „ (value)	£	28	26	—	148	625
Lime Juice, raw (gals.)	...	17,005	1,833	—	22,840	29,134
„ „ „ (value)	£	639	140	—	1,091	1,453
Lime Juice, concentrated (gals.)		1,785	—	—	—	—
„ „ „ (value)	£	440	—	—	—	—
Tomatoes (crates of 20 lb.)	...	213	—	19,319	16,966	22,764
„ „ „ (value)	£	53	377	3,397	2,832	—
Onions (lb.)	...	204,015	161,300	72,280	21,600	41,564
„ (value)	£	1,478	1,104	400	179	300

Virgin Islands.

A certain amount of sugar is produced, and either consumed or converted into rum for local consumption. Cotton was grown a few years ago, but with the fall in prices interest ceased, and the pink boll worm is now too prevalent to hope for much result. A tobacco industry was started about ten years ago and a fair quality of local cigars was produced, but the prices proved unremunerative and the industry ceased last year. Until two years ago the people of the British Virgin Islands found a useful market for their cattle and vegetable produce in St. Thomas, where an American Naval Station was established, but on this being removed, and on partial restrictions being placed against the importation of British livestock, trade with that island has become stagnant, and the British Virgin islanders can now only find a scanty livelihood in producing a few vegetables, cattle and goats for export to the remoter islands. They also do a certain amount of fishing. Weather conditions, too, are against them, as the rainfall is normally not large and, these small islands being mountainous, any rain that falls runs off too rapidly into the sea.

Practically all the land is peasant-owned.

LIVESTOCK OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Although mechanical ploughs are being found very suitable for the hard clay soils of Antigua, cattle will be for a long time needed as plough and draught animals in that island and also in St. Kitts-Nevis and Dominica. In the former island a mixed strain with imported Mysore or zebu blood has been found very useful. Horses are principally in use by the planters and overseers for riding about the estates. Mules are to a certain extent used for ploughing in both St. Kitts and Antigua. Donkeys are largely the means of transport of the labouring classes. Sheep are only required for the meat markets, and are usually of poor quality. Goats, pigs, and poultry are bred in large quantities for food purposes by the labouring classes.

In Antigua and St. Kitts there are qualified Government veterinary surgeons, who inspect all livestock on importation, examine market animals before and after slaughter, and periodically examine milking cattle. They also look after the health of all horses and mules belonging to the Government. They are allowed private practice among the estates of the island. In Antigua two fatal cases of equine tetanus occurred during 1932 and there were a number of cases of tuberculous disease in cattle. There were 3,299 animals slaughtered in the public market at St. John's, and 355 organs were condemned for disease or injury. There were 322 certificates issued for healthy milking cows. There were 424 new importations of animals into Antigua during the year, including 11 horses, 60 cattle, and 198 sheep.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The total values of the imports and exports of the Colony for the past five years have been as follows :—

	1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports from United Kingdom	257,214	275,441	237,911	210,508	246,592
,, ,, Canada	202,990	225,472	184,860	138,943	107,346
,, ,, Rest of Empire ...	125,076	144,957	116,323	96,280	87,966
,, ,, United States of America.	209,968	210,609	175,699	132,584	80,797
,, ,, Other foreign countries.	42,844	60,577	43,105	40,789	28,787
Total ...	838,092	917,056	757,898	619,104	551,488
Exports to United Kingdom ...	574,028	412,845	239,200	81,990	296,062
,, ,, Canada	153,597	54,270	271,796	128,560	114,047
,, ,, Rest of Empire ...	25,461	26,820	23,837	25,410	26,076
,, ,, United States of America.	87,602	105,773	66,050	33,157	33,452
,, ,, Other foreign countries.	14,500	12,491	11,971	17,125	13,626
Total	855,188	612,199	612,854	286,242	483,263
Percentage of value of exported sugar to total exports.	61	48	60	58	82

From the above it will be seen that sugar forms the bulk of the Colony's exports, and that any lowering of the value of sugar exports, due to hurricane, drought, or low prices, is at once reflected not only in the total export trade but automatically in the import trade, because there is less money in circulation. 1931 was a particularly bad year due to drought and, of course, low prices, and in consequence there was less money to spend in 1932. The percentages of imports are as follows, to the nearest unit :—

	1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
United Kingdom	31	30	31	34	45
Canada	24	24	24	22	19
Rest of the Empire	15	16	15	15	16
United States of America ...	25	23	23	21	15
Other foreign countries	5	6	6	7	5

The fall in imports from the United States of America and the corresponding increase in imports from the United Kingdom is very satisfactory from the Imperial point of view, but owing to the lesser rate of import duty the revenues of the Colony have suffered. The trade with the United Kingdom in motor-cars, shoes, groceries, cotton, and fancy goods might be still further developed, but not by correspondence. Visits of commercial travellers with samples are very necessary.

The value of the total trade of the Colony as well as that of the imports and exports is shown in the following table :—

Year.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Total Trade.*
	£	£	£
1928	838,092	855,188	1,693,280
1929	917,056	612,199	1,529,255
1930	757,898	612,854	1,370,752
1931	619,104	286,242	905,346
1932	551,488	483,263	1,034,751

Since import duties form between 60 and 70 per cent. of the total revenue in this Colony, it is necessary specially to examine the position with regard to the imports.

The value of imports during 1932 as compared with 1931 showed a decrease of £67,616. The fall was partly due to less purchasing power owing to the small sugar crop in 1931. Imports will probably rise again in 1933 consequent on a large sugar crop in 1932, just as they did in 1929. Another factor in the lessened value is that the total values of the sugar crops have been much less in proportion to their size, owing to the low price of sugar, and consequently there has been less purchasing power in the Colony. Yet another factor is the reduced value generally of imported goods, and, lately, the shifting of trade from Canada and the United States to the United Kingdom—owing to the abandoning of the gold standard—with a consequent lessened total value of the goods imported. The principal items of decrease in the value of the imports were as follows :—flour £11,600, machinery £10,200, cement £5,800, tobacco £4,000, cotton hosiery £4,000, cornmeal £3,700, soap £2,000, rice £1,600, whisky £1,600, wines £1,600, gasolene £1,100. There was also a decrease of £4,800 in the value of goods imported through the parcel post. This was partly due to the depression in the United States, whence many relatives of Leeward islanders were accustomed to send valuable gifts of clothing.

On the other hand the exports showed an increase in value of £166,820 over those of 1931. This was mainly owing to the larger sugar crop, and also the slightly better sale price of sugar. Some goods imported showed an increase in value, notably cotton goods and boots and shoes. This may have been partly due to the flooding of the market with Japanese goods of this type, low in price but great in total value. The following table shows how some of the imports from the United Kingdom have increased. These goods were formerly imported from the United States.

	1931.		*1932.*	
	Quantity.	*Value in £.*	*Quantity.*	*Value in £.*
Fish...	143,570 lb.	1,281	280,869 lb.	2,463
Smoked meat ...	4,461 lb.	346	15,922 lb.	1,041
Boots and Shoes ...	911 doz. prs.	3,673	3,023 doz. prs.	6,018
Cars	15	1,960	37	4,850
Cotton piece goods	418,098 yds.	11,439	925,347 yds.	24,140
Cottons, other ...	—	8,320	—	16,875
Silk Manufactures...	—	664	—	1,453

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The day wages of field labourers vary from 1s. to 2s. for men and 6d. to 10d. for women, with about 3s. 6d. to 4s. for artizans. But most of the field work on the estates is done by the task, and in the crop season labourers frequently perform two tasks a day, earning from 16s. to 20s. a week. In addition to this they are provided with free medical attendance, houses, and land for planting provisions.

For office workers and professional men the cost of living is about the same as in the country districts of England. The rent of bungalows or small houses is about £40 to £60 a year. The hotels, which are more like small boarding-houses, charge about 12s. 6d. a day. The average prices of foodstuffs per lb. are :—bread 4d., flour 2½d., fish 4d., beef 8d., and milk 4d. per qt.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE.

EDUCATION.

Educational facilities in the Colony are abundant (100 schools) and, on the whole, good. Elementary or primary schools (all free and undenominational) are maintained by Government throughout Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica, and are State-aided in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands. There is an advisory Board of Education in each Presidency. A sum of £28,195 was provided for education in 1932. Pupil teachers are trained locally for three years, and then selected ones are awarded studentships for higher training at the Rawle Training Institute in Barbados for men, or the Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College at Antigua for women.

Antigua.

The Boys' Grammar School, founded in 1884, is open to all races and denominations, but is the property of the Anglican diocese of Antigua. There are about 80 boys. The teaching staff consists of a headmaster and four assistants. The Government subsidy in 1932 was £600, in part return for which seven free Government scholarships of £12 a year are given.

The Girls' High School, founded 1886, is open to all races and denominations, and has about 80 pupils, some 20 being boarders. The teaching is arranged for by a headmistress, a deputy, and five assistant mistresses, resident at the school. The Government subsidy in 1932 was £200, in part return for which there are five free Government scholarships.

The T. O. Robinson Memorial School, founded in 1898, is open to all races and denominations and has about 80 pupils, boys and girls. Miss Robinson, the proprietress, is aided by a teaching staff, and all the usual facilities for instruction and recreation are afforded. There is a School Board, and there is a Government subsidy of £75 a year.

In Antigua there are 20 Government elementary or primary schools and one small grant-aided private one ; also at Barbuda there is a primary school managed by the Anglican authorities and receiving a Government grant of £90 per annum. There is at St. John's a small night-school, held in a Government school-building, under the auspices of Toc H.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The Boys' Grammar School is a Government school, and has about 40 pupils. In 1932 £983 was allocated for salaries of staff and £212 for equipment and scholarships.

The Girls' High School is maintained in a Government building, and a subsidy on a sliding scale is paid to the headmistress, Miss Pickard. There is also a Convent School managed by the Order of Missionary Canonesses of St. Augustine.

In Nevis there is a secondary school, for boys and girls, owned by Miss Bridgewater, to whom a Government subsidy of £75 is paid.

There are 16 Government primary schools in St. Kitts, 10 in Nevis, and 5 in Anguilla. The number of children enrolled in these is 7,230.

Dominica.

There is a Government Grammar School for boys, with 47 pupils. A cheap private school, called St. Mary's Academy, with 38 boys, was also started in 1932. The Convent School for girls, managed by the Order of the Faithful Virgin, has 83 pupils. There is also a Wesley High School for girls, with 17 pupils. The Government maintains 28 primary schools, with a total enrolment of 7,488 pupils. Agricultural instruction is a useful feature in most of the Government schools of the Colony, but especially so in Dominica.

There are night schools at Roseau and Portsmouth, which are doing very good work.

Montserrat.

The Grammar School for boys is a Government institution, maintained at a cost of some £700 per annum. There is also a small secondary school for girls, which receives a Government grant of £100 per annum. There are twelve primary schools, grant-aided.

Virgin Islands.

1,286 children are enrolled in the primary schools, all denominational and Government-aided. There are no secondary schools.

WELFARE.

A small Reformatory School exists at Antigua for about 20 boys. Reference has already been made in the chapter on the health of the Colony to homes for the aged and infirm and to the creche system in the various Presidencies. A number of Mutual Friendly Societies exist with funds for sickness and burials, organized either in conjunction with the different churches or of an undenominational character.

There are Lodges of Freemasons in most of the Presidencies.

The principal religious denominations in the Colony are the Anglican, Wesleyan, Moravian Mission, Roman Catholic (very numerous in Dominica), and some minor sects of American origin. The Salvation Army has also rendered useful service of a general nature for some years past. The Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements have taken a firm hold in recent years and there are now about 1,000 of the former and 400 of the latter in the Colony. The Toc. H. Association has been established in Antigua, the first branch in the West Indies.

Recreation.

Forms of recreation are plentiful for all classes.

Sea-bathing in the warm blue-green water off the palm-fringed white beaches of Antigua and Anguilla is as good as can be found anywhere in the world ; and in most of the other islands is better than at a great many much advertised resorts. Sailing and fishing are indulged in to a limited extent. Cricket is a sport that appeals to popular enthusiasm throughout the islands, and the inter-Presidential annual tournament always creates the greatest excitement. Tennis clubs exist in all the Presidencies, and it can be played on grass courts all the year round. Association football has become popular in recent years during the winter months. There is a 9-hole golf course at Antigua.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Sea.

The principal islands of the Colony are served by the following steamship companies :—

Canadian National.—From Canada.
Ocean Dominion.—From Canada.
Bermuda and West Indies (Furness Withy).—From New York.
Munson Line.—From New York.
Harrison Line.—From England.

Smaller steamships of the Dutch and French lines also call at St. Kitts, and schooners and sloops make irregular calls at most of the islands. H.M. ships, especially from the American and West Indies Station (headquarters, Bermuda), occasionally spend a few days among the islands, particularly in the winter months. During 1932 1,382 British steamships, of a total tonnage of 4,363,301 tons, and 744 foreign steamships, of a total tonnage of 1,040,467 tons, entered and cleared the ports of the Colony.

Air.

The branch of Pan-American Air-ways that flies between Miami and Trinidad calls regularly for passengers and mails on Wednesdays and Fridays at Antigua, which is a night stopping place on the south-bound journey.

Roads.

In Antigua there are 166 miles of roads (65 miles being main roads) traversed by motors, carriages, ox-waggons, horses, and donkeys ; the latter, pannier-carrying, being a feature of peasant transport for produce. There are also motor-omnibus companies in Antigua, as there are in most of the other islands. In St. Kitts there is a main road 30 miles in length encircling the island. In Nevis there is a similar encircling road 18 miles in length. Anguilla has about 20 miles of especially good roads, but there are only about a dozen cars in the island. Dominica roads are a most difficult problem owing to the mountains and rivers and frequent landslides. There are now about 50 miles of motor roads of moderate quality. A launch service takes the place of an impassable road between Roseau and Portsmouth. Montserrat has 68 miles of roads, but not more than about half this distance is really suitable for motor traffic. The Virgin Islands have no motor roads, all land traffic being by horseback or donkey-back.

As mentioned in Chapter VI, there are narrow-gauge railways in Antigua and St. Kitts, but these are only for sugar transport.

Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones.

There is one series of postage stamps for the Colony, and a separate series for each of the five Presidencies. In 1932 there were issued special postage stamps in Antigua and Montserrat to commemorate the tercentenary of the colonization of those islands.

There are central Post Offices at St. John's, Basseterre, Roseau, Plymouth, and Road Town ; and 17 sub-offices in Antigua, 5 in St. Kitts-Nevis, 12 in Dominica, 6 in Montserrat, and 3 in the Virgin Islands. There is an annual overseas traffic of about two million letters and postal packages.

The telephone service throughout the islands is of the metallic earth system. In addition to a central exchange in each of the larger islands there are two sub-exchanges and 570 miles of telephone in Antigua ; 3 sub-exchanges and 350 miles of telephone in St. Kitts-Nevis ; 5 sub-exchanges and 590 miles of telephone in Dominica ; and two sub-exchanges and 150 miles of telephone in Montserrat. There are also a few miles of telephone service in Anguilla.

The wireless telegraph system (owned by Imperial and International Communications, Ltd.) is established at Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica, and a similar one, owned by the Government but operated by the Company in Montserrat. Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica are also linked with the West Indian and Panama Submarine Cable system, which is controlled by Imperial and International Communications, Ltd.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

British currency is legal tender throughout the Colony, but in the Virgin Islands, where there is no bank and where practically all trade is done with St. Thomas, either American or Danish currency circulates along with British. Government accounts are kept in all the Presidencies in sterling, but in the banks and in many commerical houses the dollar system is used, at a standard rate of $4·80 to the £. Barclay's Bank (D.C.O.) has branches at Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica. The Royal Bank of Canada has branches at Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat. These banks pay a Government stamp duty of £62 10s. 0d. per annum each. Each has a note issue of $5 notes, to the amount of between $30,000 and $50,000 in circulation. They charged in 1932 a rate of interest on overdrafts of 8 per cent. (which has since been reduced). They each have a Savings Bank section, which was paying 3 per cent. interest on deposits in 1932. Government Savings Banks also operate in the principal islands. Amounts to the credit of depositors on the last day of each of the last financial years were as follows :—

Government Savings Banks.

	31st March, 1929.	*31st March, 1930.*	*31st March, 1931.*	*31st December, 1931.*	*31st December, 1932.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	19,219	18,581	16,461	15,341	16,371
St. Kitts-Nevis	4,007	4,209	4,063	4,003	4,077
Dominica	5,707	11,536	8,751	6,585	5,735
Montserrat	785	658	661	605	565
Virgin Islands	1,309	1,382	1,630	1,615	2,005
Total for the Colony	31,027	36,366	31,566	28,149	28,753

The falling off in deposits since 1930 is partly due to competition from the private banks and partly to the general financial depression. There are no Agricultural Banks, except a small privately-managed one in the Virgin Islands.

Weights and Measures.

Weights and measures are standard Imperial and are periodically examined by Government Inspectors.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Colony.

Owing to the general financial depression, practically no extraordinary public works were undertaken in the Colony during 1932, and the public works recurrent expenditure was kept at a minimum. Certain special public works were, however, continued with funds provided by the Colonial Development Fund, and usually under the supervision of special officers.

Antigua.

Staff.—A Superintendent of Public Works is assisted by two Road Overseers and a Clerk and Storekeeper. The Superintendent is also Superintendent of the Asylum and Chairman of the City Commissioners.

Works undertaken during the year consisted of the usual maintenance of Government buildings, wharves, waterworks, and roads. The abnormal rains in the latter part of the year necessitated an additional road repair grant, and a special Road Committee was appointed to supervise it.

Colonial Development Fund works.—14,572 linear feet of village concrete drains were laid down. The Housing Scheme was temporarily in abeyance, but twenty more houses were built in the first half of the year.

Land settlement surveys for Greencastle and Mathews were completed.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Staff.—A Surveyor of Works (who is also Superintendent of telephones), assisted by a clerk, and by an executive officer in Nevis, constitutes the principal staff in this Presidency. Nothing much beyond ordinary maintenance work was possible during the year.

Colonial Development Fund works.—A water-pumping plant, pumping fifty gallons a minute, was installed at the Valley, Anguilla, at a cost of £665.

The special surveyor employed to investigate the possibilities of water supplies and drainage in St. Kitts and Nevis has continued the preparation of his plans.

Dominica.

Staff.—A Colonial Engineer, assisted by two Road Overseers, and an Electrician comprise the senior public works staff here.

Works undertaken.—In addition to ordinary maintenance, four girder bridges have been strengthened and a road deviation on the Clark Hall road made. The Roseau electric light mains have been partly renewed and many of their posts re-erected in concrete.

Colonial Development Fund works.—Roseau Hospital Maternity Ward No. 2 was completed, at a total cost of £2,445, and the new man-hole covers in Roseau streets all laid down, at a cost of £319. The Fond Hunt road and the Portsmouth swamp drainage were continued and the latter is now completed.

Montserrat.

Staff.—An Inspector of Works and Roads works under the general supervision of the Commissioner, and is assisted by a clerk and storekeeper. He is also in charge of the telephone system. Nothing beyond ordinary maintenance was possible during the year.

Colonial Development Fund works.—Two model houses were constructed.

Virgin Islands.

The Commissioner supervises any public works. The town cistern at the Treasury building was re-built, and a small slipway was constructed for the Government launch. A 19-inch rainfall in August and a heavy storm in September considerably damaged the roads and buildings.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

JUSTICE.

The Superior Courts of the Colony are presided over by the Chief Justice or a Puisne Judge. Circuit Courts, with a jury of nine, are held three times a year each at Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat, and, as occasion requires, at Tortola. The Attorney-General or the Crown Attorneys have the function of a Grand Jury. A Court of Summary Jurisdiction, without a jury, for civil cases where less than £50 is involved, is held monthly in Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica, and the Virgin Islands, on alternate months in Montserrat, and quarterly in Anguilla. The Commissioners of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands act as Deputy Judges for this purpose. Appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the West Indian Court of Appeal, and from the Summary Courts to the Supreme Court. Magistrates in each Presidency deal with minor cases. In Antigua there are two Magistrates (one being for Barbuda), in St. Kitts-Nevis four, in Dominica three, and in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands one each (the Commissioners). The principal Magistrate in St. Kitts and Dominica is also the Crown Attorney. Appeals from the Magistrates' Courts go to a Judge of the Supreme Court, and in further appeal to the Full Court, which is held twice a year in Antigua and consists of the Chief Justice and one or two Puisne Judges. The time for the payment of fines may be deferred, or they may be paid in instalments.

In each Presidency there are Justices of the Peace, but with very limited powers. Any two may act for a Magistrate, if the latter is an interested party. First offenders are frequently bound over and the assistance of one of the clergy invoked to help the person. Juvenile offenders are usually dealt with at a separate hour of the Court or else in the Magistrate's room.

The following table shows the numbers of persons convicted in the Summary and Supreme Courts of the Colony during 1932.

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Mont-serrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*	*Total.*
Magistrates' Courts ...	2,691	2,341	1,496	1,056	113	7,697
Supreme Court ...	15	31	33	7	—	86

The total number of cases heard and of persons convicted of various crimes in the Colony over a period of five years is as follows :—

	1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
Magistrates' Courts (cases heard)	15,740	12,020	11,798	11,723	11,443
Magistrates' Courts (convictions)	9,790	8,334	8,142	8,064	7,697
Supreme Court (convictions) ...	27	68	69	105	86

The following table shows (*a*) the number of offences reported to the Police or the Magistrates, and (*b*) the number dealt with in 1932 as compared with 1931 in all the Presidencies. It is satisfactory to note that there were 1,307 less cases reported than in 1931.

Total number of reported cases divided as under.

Total number of offences reported.			*Offences against the person, including Homicide.*	*Praedial Larceny.*	*Offences against Property other than Praedial.*	*Other Offences.*	*Of those reported, the following were dealt with by apprehension or summons.*
Antigua ...	1932	4,410	1,114	111	226	2,959	4,117
	1931	4,588	1,195	296	289	2,808	3,828
St. Kitts-Nevis.	1932	4,316	1,308	127	419	2,462	3,244
	1931	4,714	1,295	151	491	2,777	3,533
Dominica	1932	2,896	880	143	412	1,461	2,120
	1931	4,135	995	229	444	2,467	2,897
Montserrat	1932	2,269	395	178	121	1,575	1,809
	1931	1,788	359	68	197	1,164	1,351
Virgin Islands.	1932	155	37	7	—	111	153
	1931	128	78	15	6	29	114
Totals	1932	14,046	3,734	566	1,178	8,568	11,443
	1931	15,353	3,922	759	1,427	9,245	11,723

Two cases of murder were reported in St. Kitts. Convictions on the capital charge followed and the sentence of the Court was carried out in one instance. A case of manslaughter was reported in Antigua and resulted in an acquittal on trial.

POLICE.

The Police Force is a Federal one and consists of two Inspectors, four Sub-Inspectors, and 146 N.C.O's. and men, all under the command of a Chief Inspector who has his headquarters at Antigua, where the junior Sub-Inspector is also normally stationed for training. An Inspector and a Sub-Inspector are usually stationed in Dominica, and the same in St. Kitts-Nevis. In Montserrat there is usually a Sub-Inspector. The Chief Inspector of Police is also Commandant of the Defence Force of the Colony, and the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors hold rank therein as Captains and Lieutenants respectively.

The period of first enlistment and re-engagement for N.C.Os. and men is three years, and during 1932 thirty-two N.C.Os. and men re-engaged for further terms of three years. All men take part in musketry training and ambulance work in addition to their ordinary police duties. There are also 341 local constables enrolled, who can be called upon when required for extra assistance in the country districts.

PRISONS.

The central prison for the Colony is at St. John's, Antigua, and is under the charge of the Chief Keeper of Prisons (a retired Naval Commander). It has accommodation for 128 males and 47 females, and is staffed by a Head Warder, a Matron, 10 Warders, and one Wardress. £1,016 was expended on personal emoluments during the year. Instruction is given to the male prisoners in carpentry, tin-smithing, baking, and to the females in laundry and sewing. £112 was expended on supplies for the workshop during the year, and £138 was received for articles sold. Elementary education is voluntarily given to some of the more illiterate prisoners by certain members of the Toc H. Association, and the Prison Chaplain gives instruction in religion. Prisoners are also employed within the prison on stone-breaking, cleaning, etc., and certain of the male prisoners outside on road-work, in the Botanic Gardens, pauper cemetery, and other public institutions. The prison bakery made over 30,000 lb. of bread during the year, supplying both the Prison and the Reformatory Training School.

123 males and 37 females were committed during the year, 12 males and 3 females coming from other Presidencies. The daily average was 79 males and 14 females. One prisoner escaped towards the end of the year, but was recaptured after a few days. There are 72 individual cells for males and 20 for females; and 7 association cells to hold 5 each for males, and 3 to hold 3 each for females. There is an average of 1,370 cubic feet of cell space per prisoner. There is also an infirmary on the male side to hold 9 and another on the female side to hold 3. The Prison Medical Officer pays daily visits. Prisoners who are seriously ill are treated under suitable precautions at the island hospital. There were six deaths

during the year, five at the hospital and one at the prison. There are 13 Visiting Justices to the Prison, who hold periodical meetings there to enquire into complaints and to consider questions of prison discipline. The boys' Reformatory School has already been referred to in the chapter on Education.

Numbers of male prisoners.
Daily average in Prisons of the Colony for five years.

	1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
Antigua (Central Prison)	48	52	79	97	79
St. Kitts-Nevis	14	20	20	26	27
Dominica	17	26	24	25	—
Montserrat	14	9	7	7	—
Virgin Islands	—	—	—	—	—
Total	93	107	130	155	106

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The prison is at Basseterre and consists of a group of stone buildings surrounded by a 14 ft. wall. On the male side there are 16 cells of 18 ft. by 10 ft. each, and on the female side 10 cells of about the same size. The average cubic foot space per prisoner is 1,418 ft.

246 males and 107 females were committed during the year, mostly on short sentences. The staff consisted of a Keeper and 6 male Warders and a Matron and a Wardress at a cost of £574. Prisoners are taught and employed in the same manner as at Antigua, and sick prisoners are dealt with in similar fashion.

Dominica.

The prison is at Roseau, and consists of a group of stone buildings enclosed by a high stone wall. There are 20 cells for males and 8 for females, with an average cubic space per prisoner of 1,452 ft.

221 males and 168 females were committed during the year, mostly on short sentences. The staff consisted of a Keeper, 6 male Warders, a Matron, and one Wardress, at a cost of £605. Prisoners are taught and employed in the same manner as at Antigua, and sick prisoners are dealt with in similar fashion.

Montserrat.

The prison at Plymouth is stone-built, small but sufficient for requirements. There are 8 cells for males and 3 for females, with an average cubic space per prisoner of 1,266 ft. 104 males and 78 females were committed during the year. The staff consisted of a Keeper, a male Warder, and a Matron, at a cost of £156. Male prisoners with sentences over 6 months and females with sentences of over 2 months are transferred to the Antigua Prison.

Virgin Islands.

The prison at Tortola is a large stone building more than sufficient for the needs of the Presidency. Only two prisoners were committed during the year, both for minor offences: they were sentenced to one week and two weeks respectively. The staff consisted of a Keeper and a Matron, at a cost of £14.

All the prisons of the Colony are kept scrupulously clean, and in St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat the Inspectors of Police have supervising powers as Officers-in-charge of prison discipline.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Colony.

At the annual session of the General Legislative Council, opened on 4th February, 1932, twenty-two amendments to existing Acts and two Appropriation Acts were passed. New legislation consisted of the Escheat Act and the Foreign Merchant Shipping Agreements Act. The former transferred the administration of the law of escheat to the Supreme Court on its equity side; and the latter provided for the repatriation of distressed seamen from British West Indian Colonies, employed on foreign ships, at the expense of such ships. Of the amending Acts the Small Trespass, the Summary Jurisdiction, and the Magistrates Code of Procedure Amendment Acts were of the greatest importance, as they extended the civil jurisdiction of the Magistrates' and Summary Courts, thus bringing civil remedies more easily within the reach of the poorer classes. Legislation regarding workmen's compensation is under consideration. Forty-one Statutory Rules and Orders were made under Federal Acts during the year. Most of them dealt with minor matters of administration.

Antigua.

There were six sessions of the Legislative Council during the year and eleven Ordinances were passed, five being amendments of existing Ordinances, and the remainder minor financial or administrative legislation. Twenty Statutory Rules and Orders were made, one being to implement part of the Ottawa Agreements.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Twenty-three Ordinances (eleven being amending ones) and seventeen Statutory Rules and Orders became law during the year.

Dominica.

Twenty-five Ordinances (seventeen being amending ones) were passed. One of the more important was the Roseau Town Board Amendment Ordinance which changed the name Board to Council and provided that the Chairman might be elected by the members.

Montserrat.

Sixteen Ordinances (eight amending ones) were passed. The most important were those establishing the Income Tax and Tonnage Duties, and abolishing the Export Duty on certain sugar products. Twenty-two Statutory Rules and Orders were made.

Virgin Islands.

Fourteen Ordinances were made, mostly concerning alterations in taxation.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The following is a comparative table of the local revenue and expenditure of the Colony as a whole and of its five component Presidencies for the past five financial years, excluding the broken period of nine months in 1931 when a change to the calendar year system took place.

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Montserrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*	*Leeward Islands Colony.*
1927–28.						
Revenue	93,435	94,160	60,315	22,426	9,734	280,070
Expenditure ...	83,149	93,113	60,489	19,986	7,240	263,977
Surplus or Deficit ...	+10,286	+1,047	−174	+2,440	+2,494	+16,093
1928–29.						
Revenue	95,057	100,066	67,946	27,830	9,120	300,019
Expenditure ...	101,331	100,676	62,705	29,778	9,487	303,977
Surplus or Deficit ...	−6,274	−610	+5,241	−1,948	−367	−3,958
1929–30.						
Revenue	83,701	97,987	70,674	27,389	6,787	286,538
Expenditure ...	94,145	97,352	68,356	26,879	6,871	293,603
Surplus or Deficit ...	−10,444	+635	+2,318	+510	−84	−7,065
1930–31.						
Revenue	73,730	90,610	63,440	25,176	5,707	258,663
Expenditure ...	91,351	97,654	71,177	28,805	7,027	296,014
Surplus or Deficit ...	−17,621	−7,044	−7,737	−3,629	−1,320	−37,351
1932.						
Revenue	73,752	80,876	52,376	19,346	4,389	230,739
Expenditure ...	82,780	83,577	66,472	24,227	6,420	263,476
Surplus or Deficit ...	−9,028	−2,701	−14,096	−4,881	−2,031	−32,737

It will be noticed that, although the revenue of the Colony has been much reduced owing to the low world commodity prices prevailing, the expenditure has also been reduced to that of 1927–28, the lowest for five years.

The following assistance was afforded to the Colony from Imperial Funds during the year :—

	£
Antigua—	
Loan in aid of administration	21,500
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes	10,050
St. Kitts-Nevis—	
Loan in aid of administration	10,000
Relief grants	1,250
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes	8,079

Dominica—	£
Loan in aid of administration	10,500
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes	9,503
Grants and loans for other services	2,850

The Public Debts and Sinking Funds of the Colony as at 31st December, 1932, were as follows :—

	Total Debt.	*Sinking Fund (Market value).*
	£	£
Antigua	145,000	131,246
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	72,350	53,973
Dominica	57,417	53,545
Montserrat ...	13,000	11,194
Virgin Islands ...	Nil.	Nil.
Total	£287,767	£249,958

The main heads of taxation and their yields were approximately as follows :—

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Mont-serrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Customs	44,500	46,963	29,180	9,400	1,950	131,993
Harbour, etc., dues ...	1,460	7,970	3,240	200	30	12,900
Internal Revenue ...	11,153	13,962	15,242	2,566	1,061	43,984
Fees of Offices ...	6,075	3,770	2,661	922	447	13,875
Post Office Telephones, Light, etc.	8,326	6,755	5,245	3,997	156	24,479
Miscellaneous... ...	363	170	320	120	30	1,003

The Customs Tariff is arranged on either an *ad valorem* or a specific basis. The *ad valorem* rate is mainly on manufactured articles and is usually 10 per cent British preferential and 15 per cent. general. As a result of the Ottawa Conference, certain improvements in favour of Empire goods were made in the tariffs throughout the Colony. Excise duties are leviable on locally made spirits or tobacco in such Presidencies as make them. Stamp duties are governed by Federal Statutes and are uniform throughout the Colony. There is no hut or poll tax.

APPENDIX.

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Leeward Islands Blue Book	—	Do. do.	Annually	8s. 4d.
St. Christopher-Nevis Gazette	—	St. Kitts Bulletin Office	Weekly.	4s. 2d. per annum
Dominica Gazette	—	Dominica Chronicle ...	Weekly	6d. per copy.
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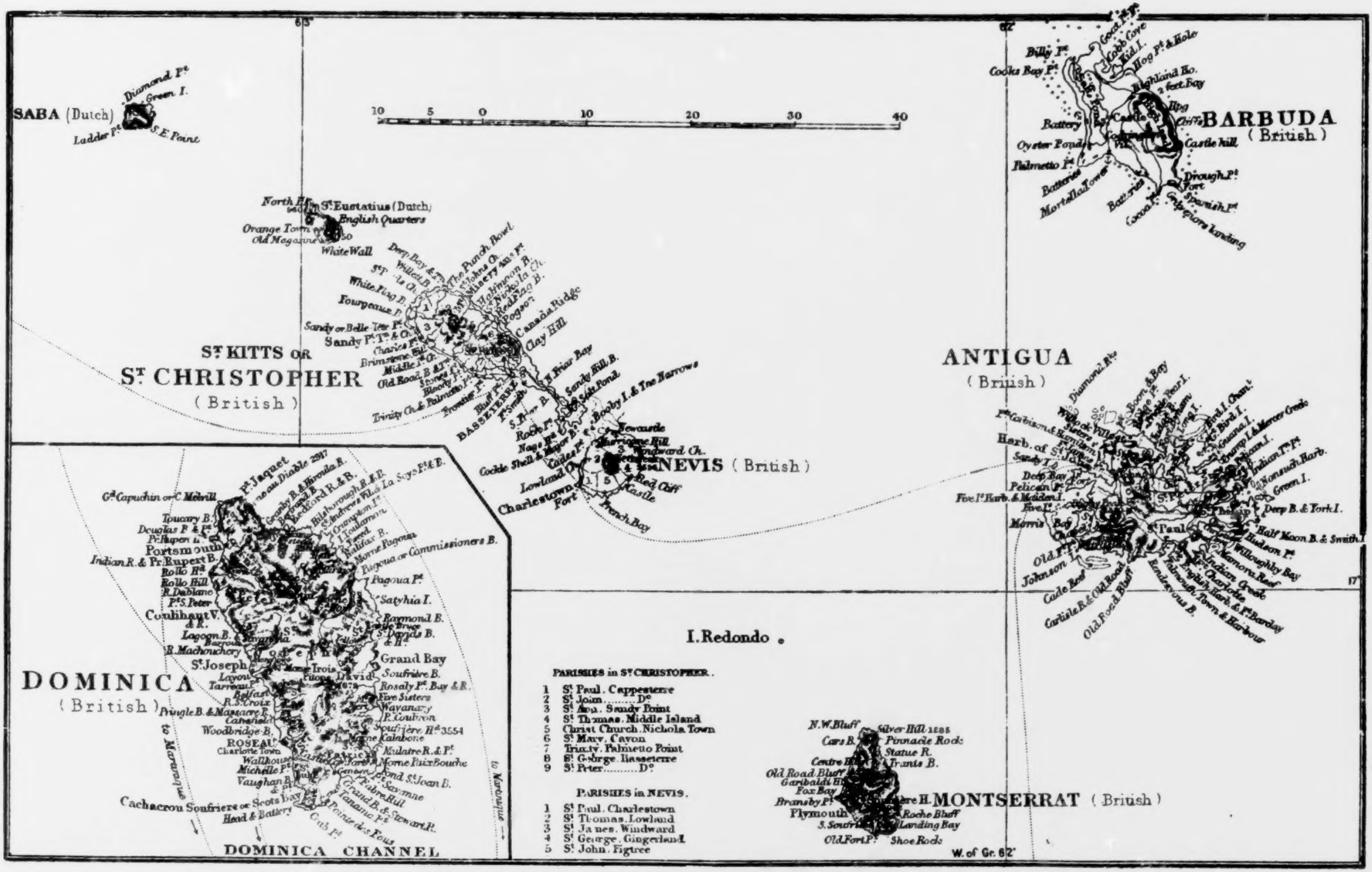
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1933

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR 1933

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Colony of the Leeward Islands, with a total area of 704 square miles, consists of a number of islands belonging partly to the Lesser Antilles and partly to the Greater Antilles. Antigua, Barbuda, St. Christopher (St. Kitts), Nevis, and Montserrat lie between West longitude 61 and 63, and around North latitude 17, but Dominica is about 100 miles to the south, separated by the French island of Guadeloupe from the rest. The Virgin Islands, Sombrero, and Anguilla on the other hand lie some distance away to the north-west. The Virgin Islands, St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat, and Dominica are mostly volcanic in origin with mountains rising to 1,780, 3,711, 3,596, 3,002, and 4,550 ft. respectively, while Antigua, Barbuda, and Anguilla are sedimentary and are subject to drought.

All the islands are refreshed by the cooling trade winds, though Dominica with its heavy intervening mountain system, becomes very hot and steamy at certain times of the year. The average rainfall for 1933 was as follows :—Antigua 44 ins., St. Kitts 59 ins., Dominica 82 ins., Montserrat 62 ins., Virgin Islands 95 ins. The mean temperature is about 80 degrees F.

Politically the Colony is divided into five Presidencies, (*a*) Antigua, with Barbuda and Redonda, (*b*) St. Christopher-Nevis, with Anguilla, (*c*) Dominica, (*d*) Montserrat, and (*e*) the British Virgin Islands (which are in close proximity to the American Virgin Islands). These five Presidencies have been united and separated at various times in their history, and were finally federated in 1871 by an Imperial Act. A Commission, consisting of General Sir Charles Fergusson, Bt., G.C.B., Sir Charles Orr, K.C.M.G., with Mr. McNeill Campbell of the Colonial Office as Secretary, was sent out at the end of 1932 to report upon the possibilities of closer union of the Leeward Islands with other West Indian Colonies.

From a historical point of view the Leeward Islands Colony is probably the most interesting in the Empire.

St. Kitts was the first island in the West Indies to be systematically colonized by the English, Sir Thomas Warner, captain of the King's Body Guard, bringing out a number of farmers and artisans for that purpose in 1623. In 1666, 1689, and 1782 it was captured by the French, and in the latter year the famous defence of Brimstone Hill took place, a gallant action which ultimately enabled Rodney to defeat the French fleet at " The Saints " and save the then Colonial Empire.

In Nevis in 1787, Nelson, then aged 25 and acting as Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands Naval Station, married the young and attractive widow Nisbet, who survived him. In 1757 Alexander Hamilton, the founder of the American Constitution, was born in Nevis, the son of a Scottish planter.

Antigua is the headquarters of the Colony, the residence of the Governor, and also of the Archbishop of the West Indies. The island was settled by Sir Thomas Warner's son in 1632, and only once, in 1666, was it captured by the French. At Antigua is the historic old Naval Dockyard, first built in 1725, where Nelson lived between 1785 and 1787. It lies in a romantic narrow inlet, English Harbour, and is to-day just as it was left when the last of the old frigates was warped out. Efforts are now being made to preserve the ruined buildings so that it may be an Empire memorial to the Navy of the famous days of " England's wooden walls."

Dominica was originally declared as neutral territory between the French and English, but became English by the Treaty of Paris in 1763. In 1771 it was made a separate Colony, but was rejoined to the Leeward Islands in 1832. During that period, however, it was captured and held by the French for five years until restored to England by the Treaty of Versailles in 1783.

In 1805 the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (the old 46th) and the local Militia distinguished themselves in a gallant resistance to General La Grange and a great invading force.

Montserrat was settled by Sir Thomas Warner in 1632, but was captured (and subsequently restored) by the French in 1666 and 1782.

The Virgin Islands were first settled by Dutch farmers, who became buccaneers in 1648. English buccaneers drove them out in 1666, and in 1672 the islands were absorbed into the Leeward Islands Colony. But for a long time "Dead Man's Chest," Anegada, and other islands were the haunts of pirates.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

There is one Governor-in-Chief of the Colony, and his representatives in the Presidencies of St. Christopher-Nevis and Dominica are styled Administrators, and in those of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, Commissioners.

The Colony possesses Federal Executive and Legislative Councils, the members of the former and the official members of the latter being appointed by the Crown, while the unofficial members of the Federal or General Legislative Council (three each from Antigua and St. Christopher-Nevis, two from Dominica, and one from Montserrat) are elected by and from the nominated unofficial members of the Legislatures of their respective Presidencies. There is also a nominated unofficial member for the Virgin Islands on the General Legislative Council.

Each Presidency has an Executive and Legislative Council, with the exception of the Virgin Islands, which has only an Executive Council. The Presidential Legislative Councils have concurrent legislative powers with the General Legislative Council on specified subjects so far as their "Ordinances" are not repugnant to the "Acts" of the latter. Each Legislative Council is limited to three years' duration.

The Antigua Legislative Council, previously partly elected and partly nominated, passed an Act in 1898 abrogating itself and substituting the present system. By an Ordinance of 1910 the duration of the Council is limited to three years.

The St. Kitts and Nevis forms of Legislative Council, partly elected and partly nominated, were abolished by an Act of 1878, and the present system substituted.

The Dominica Legislative Council, like that in Antigua, was changed in 1898, but in 1924 an Ordinance was passed allowing for the election of four of the unofficial members.

The Montserrat Legislative Council was similarly changed in 1866.

There has been no Legislative Council in the Virgin Islands since 1902.

Municipal Government.—In Antigua (St. John's) there is a (partly unofficial) municipal body called the "City Commissioners"; in Dominica (Roseau and Portsmouth) there is a partly elected Town Council in the former place, and a nominated Town Board in the latter.

III.—POPULATION.

The estimated population on 31st December, 1933, was as follows :—

		Area (Sq. miles).	*Principal Town (approximate population).*
Antigua	31,498	108	St. John's (7,000).
Barbuda ...	926	60	—
St. Kitts... ...	18,540	68	Basseterre (8,000).
Nevis	13,117	50	Charlestown (1,200).
Anguilla ...	5,231	35	—
Dominica ...	45,239	305	Roseau (7,500).
Montserrat ...	13,062	32	Plymouth (1,800).
Virgin Islands ...	5,360	58	Road Town (400).
Total ...	132,973	716	

The decennial census of 1931 was not taken in view of the financial condition of the Colony in that year, but the members of the different races at the time of the previous census were as stated below, and although the population has now generally increased it is probable that the proportions are about the same.

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Montserrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*
White ...	914	1,219	556	112	36
Coloured ...	3,999	6,204	11,563	2,503	1,158
Black ...	24,854	30,791	24,940	9,505	3,888

The birth and death rates per 1,000 are as follows :—

	Birth-rate.	*Death-rate.*	*Infant Mortality.*
Antigua and Barbuda	30·25	19·39	174·57
St. Kitts	39·2	27·1	180·4
Nevis	27·1	10·1	73·3
Anguilla	37·7	12·8	76·1
Dominica	36·25	18·72	126·04
Montserrat	36·6	14·4	133·9
Virgin Islands ...	34·49	18·37	164·71

Infantile mortality for the past five years has been as follows :—

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
Antigua and Barbuda...	151	191	185	93	174·57
St. Kitts	200	186	185	167	180·4
Nevis	204	156	186	102	73·0
Anguilla	71	130	92	53	76·1
Dominica	198	124	170	88	126·04
Montserrat	113	78	172	89	133·9
Virgin Islands ...	61	83	101	136	164·71

The emigration and immigration figures of the Colony about balance during recent years. Before the embargo on free emigration to the United States, Cuba, and Curaçao, the emigration figures considerably outnumbered those of immigration. There is still a certain amount of emigration for work on the sugar estates in the Dominican Republic, but it is seasonal and the men usually return the same year.

The following table gives the marriages, births and percentage of illegitimacy during the last five years in the Presidency of Antigua :—

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
Marriages ...	134	128	90	126	125
Births ...	1,066	1,197	880	1,224	981
Illegitimacy ...	76·17	75·52	73·00	77·2	75·3
Still-births ...	62	83	50	64	53

IV.—HEALTH.

General.

The Colony, which from November to May is only semi-tropical, is gradually becoming known as a health resort, and more visitors are coming yearly, especially during the winter months, from the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States of America.

Good hospitals are established in the principal centres, and there are twenty-three Government Medical Officers stationed throughout the Colony. There is also a system of village dispensaries. Water supplies in most of the islands are good and plentiful. Legislation regarding bakeries and dairies is in force, and the meat markets are regularly inspected. The ordinary diseases found in tropical countries prevail, but not usually in a serious form. There is a central lunatic asylum (130 patients) at Antigua, and leper homes at Antigua (32 patients) and St. Kitts (50 patients). Cases of ankylostomiasis, filariasis, dysentery, yaws, and malaria are found in varying numbers.

Tuberculosis and venereal diseases are frequently found among the poorer classes, but special clinics have lately been established with very satisfactory results.

Infant welfare has received much attention recently, and crèches have been set up in many centres. The teeth of the school children in the larger islands have also been receiving special care from travelling dentists subsidized by the Government. Homes for the aged and infirm are now established in Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica and Montserrat.

Antigua.

The engagement of Major General Barrow, C.B., who was in charge of the Health Campaign, terminated in July, 1933.

A whole time Chief Medical Officer and Health Officer, Dr. W. M. McDonald, O.B.E., was appointed on 1st August, 1933.

Bacteriological laboratory.—The work in the laboratory has continued and has been found most useful and essential to the District Medical Officers and the whole community. During the year 1,820 examinations were made, of which 859 were blood examinations for malaria, 434 Kahn tests, and 76 Widal tests, various other tests comprising the remainder.

The venereal disease clinic is now centred at the Health Laboratory, but treatment has been decentralized in order to permit of patients obtaining treatment at the district dispensaries nearest their homes.

Infant welfare.—There are three Government crèches and a voluntary crèche in St. John's. These crèches are under the supervision of a Superintendent of District Nurses and of Child Welfare. The crèches are well patronized and are a great boon to the working women, who leave their infants at the crèche all day while they are working in the fields on the estates.

Sanitation.—The Central Country Board of Health has been reorganized and is now under the chairmanship of the Chief Medical Officer and has been strengthened by the addition of all the District Medical Officers.

The District Boards of Health have also been re-arranged under the chairmanship of the District Medical Officers.

Two additional Sanitary Inspectors have been appointed.

Concrete drains have been laid down in eight villages and also a large drain in the Oval pasture adjacent to St. John's.

Free dental inspection and treatment of school children has been continued and is a very valuable adjunct to the child welfare of the community.

Disease and mortality.—There were 981 births and 629 deaths during the year.

The chief diseases were:—yaws 894 cases, syphilis 459 cases, pulmonary tuberculosis 28 cases, whooping-cough 2,127 cases, dysentery 174 cases, malaria 2,511 cases.

Hospitals, etc.—There is a good modern hospital, with 88 beds (capable of more if required). It has an X-ray room. There were 546 males and 603 females admitted during the year. The average duration in hospital was 15 days. There were 92 deaths, 50 male and 42 female. The number of major operations was 180 and minor operations 198. There were 24 ophthalmic cases.

Home for the aged and infirm. (Fiennes Institute).—100 beds. 48 male and 63 females were admitted. There were 70 deaths (31 males and 39 females) chiefly from diseases incidental to old age.

Dispensaries.—There are now 14 Government dispensaries in Antigua and one in Barbuda. There are 26 Government District Nurses who are also midwives.

There is a quarantine station and, as already mentioned, a leper home and a lunatic asylum, the latter being a Federal institution.

Legislation affecting Public Health.—Statutory Rules and Orders were passed to provide for:—

(1) the abolition of customs duty on quinine and other similar drugs:

(2) the supervision of contacts under the Infectious Diseases Act:

(3) the addition of the following to the list of infectious diseases within the meaning of the Act—

Scarlet fever,
Pulmonary tuberculosis,
Alastrim,
Leprosy.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The general health of the Presidency is good. One small epidemic of mumps occurred during 1933, and a few cases of malaria occur in Nevis periodically.

The scavenging of the town of Basseterre, St. Kitts, is well done, and visitors to the island comment favourably on the cleanliness of the streets.

The sewage disposal of the town of Basseterre consists of a modified pail system, while the better-class houses are mostly equipped with the septic tank system.

The surface drainage of the streets is good where they have been graded and oiled. The newer concrete drains are of a good and modern pattern and very suitable for the type of road.

As might be expected, the scavenging of the villages is not to be compared with that of the towns though in some it is distinctly good.

The town of Charlestown, Nevis, is well scavenged and has a clean and well kept appearance. The villages of Nevis are scattered on the whole, and there is very little overcrowding. The same remarks apply to Anguilla.

The water supply of St. Kitts is good, but that of Nevis and Anguilla is scanty, especially in the dry season. That of Anguilla was recently improved by the establishment of a pumping plant at the Valley and will be further improved when the construction of an extra tank connected by a pipe-line is completed.

Elementary hygiene has been taught in the primary schools for some years past and short lectures are given by the Health Officer on mosquitoes and flies; practical demonstrations have been given and health posters distributed.

Dental clinics are held regularly by the Government Dental Officer. The more prevalent diseases met with are gastro-enteritis and framboesia (yaws) and round worm infestation in children; enteric fever, dysentery, syphilis and filariasis in adults; and, in Nevis and Anguilla, malaria.

Since the infant welfare movement was started and crèches under the supervision of the District Matron were provided, infant mortality has decreased from 409·6 per 1,000 of living births in 1920 in St. Kitts to 180·4 in 1933.

Good work is being done by the District Medical Officers in the treatment of syphilis and yaws by means of various arsenical compounds; clinics have been started and a regular system of return on the results of treatment collected and tabulated.

A well equipped bacteriological laboratory has been established and is in full working order.

The filling of swamps and steps to prevent the breeding of domestic mosquitoes require constant attention.

Malaria fever is still prevalent in Nevis, where the anopheles mosquito is found principally in the bog-lands adjoining Charlestown, but to a lesser degree in the small water courses on the northern side of the island. In Anguilla the cases seen are among those labourers who have returned from Santo Domingo. Cases seen in St. Kitts are imported ones as no anopheline mosquitoes have so far been detected in St. Kitts.

There are four District Medical Officers in St. Kitts, two in Nevis and one in Anguilla. The Medical Officer of Health for the Presidency resides in St. Kitts and has a staff of eight Sanitary Inspectors. He visits the islands of Nevis and Anguilla as required.

The Cunningham Hospital with 87 beds and 6 maternity beds is situated in Basseterre, St. Kitts, and usually supplies the needs of the island.

In the town of Sandy Point is the Pogson Hospital which is a small emergency hospital with 16 beds, four of which are reserved for maternity cases.

At Sandy Point also, about 11 miles from Basseterre, there is the leper home with 52 inmates at the present time.

The Alexandra Hospital of Charlestown, Nevis, has between 30 and 40 beds, including three for maternity cases.

In Anguilla there is a small cottage hospital of eight beds which so far has never been full and is rarely used.

There are three European Sisters in the Presidency, one being Matron of the Cunningham Hospital, the second, Matron of the Alexandra Hospital, while the third is Assistant Matron at the Cunningham Hospital and also the District Matron of St. Kitts i charge of the midwifery cases at the Cunningham Hospital and the training of the native midwives.

There are six crèches in the island of St. Kitts. These are under the supervision of and are visited regularly by the District Matron.

Cases of sickness at these crèches are attended by the District Medical Officer. Ante-natal teaching and instruction in the care of infants is given by the District Matron.

Dominica.

The Chief Medical Officer is in charge of all matters connected with public health.

A crèche is established in Roseau, and a special infant welfare centre in Portsmouth.

Mortality and disease.—There were 1,640 births (including 85 still-born) and 762 deaths during the year.

Malaria, which is endemic in the island, was less prevalent than last year and deaths attributed to it fell from 75 in 1932 to 51 in 1933.

Hospitals.—There is a central hospital at Roseau with 102 beds. Admissions in 1933 totalled 1,353. In addition to this there are also hospitals at Portsmouth (33 beds) Marigot (6 beds) and Grand Bay (4 beds) to which the admissions in 1933 amounted to 381, 141 and 88 respectively.

At Roseau there is also a home for the aged and infirm and 19 dispensaries are distributed through the Presidency.

Staff.—The Chief Medical Officer is assisted by four District Medical Officers and in addition to his ordinary administrative duties exercises general supervision over the Central Hospital.

Three District Nurses, who are also midwives, and four Sanitary Inspectors are employed.

Montserrat.

The general health of the population of the island of Montserrat for the year 1933 was good, and there were no epidemics of any kind. There was less unemployment, and the slightly brighter outlook in agricultural conditions was reflected in the spirit of the inhabitants. The number of patients who received treatment at the Glendon Hospital during the year was 417. The institution has a maximum accommodation of 25 beds.

The water supply throughout the whole island was improved by the extension of water pipes to villages hitherto unsupplied. In the case of Plymouth the water supply was improved by the acquisition of a new spring.

It may now safely be said that the water supply of Plymouth is adequate to meet the increasing demand of the town. The only disease which requires special mention is pulmonary tuberculosis. There were 20 deaths from this during the year, making 10·5 per cent. of the total number of deaths. This was due to the return and death during the year of advanced cases from Cuba, Panama, and the United States of America. The question of the spread of infection among residents is a public health problem which is causing the Government some concern.

Virgin Islands.

The health of the Presidency was as usual quite satisfactory during the early part of the year, but owing to the continual heavy rains, a great number of the inhabitants suffered from colds and fever, principally malaria. With the drier weather the number of cases decreased.

V.—HOUSING.

Antigua.

There are no building societies in the Colony, and in view of the unsuitable type of hut existing in most of the villages and in the town slums, an application was made to the Colonial Development Advisory Committee towards the end of 1929 for assistance in connexion with a housing scheme for Antigua; a grant of £6,500 with a loan of a similar amount was made from the Colonial Development Fund. A model village, subsequently named the St. Johnston village, was started in 1930, and this has been continually developed in a very satisfactory manner since 1931, there now being a good sized village with seven tree-lined roads, a school, a post office, a recreation ground, and a Mission Church. There are also a District Nurse and a Rural Constable resident there. The houses are mainly of the standard type (reinforced concrete with three rooms and a verandah, also a separate kitchen and latrine for each house) built from the Colonial Development Fund money, but respectable persons are encouraged to put up other houses for themselves provided that the house is of sufficiently good size and quality. The house plots are each 100 ft. by 50 ft. The Colonial Development Fund houses are sold on the hire-purchase system at 10s. a month, extending over a period of 20 years but with the option of paying off the whole or any portion at any earlier period with a proportionate discount allowed. The scheme is a " revolving " one, and instalment moneys are set aside to build further houses. Rules made under the Antigua Housing Ordinance of 1930 govern the conditions. These houses are attractive looking, and are earthquake, hurricane, and fire proof. They are also very sanitary and easily disinfected. Special arrangements are made for permanent ventilation, noticeably absent in most of the other small houses, especially when all doors and windows are kept shut at night as is the custom. In addition to the model village, similar houses under the same scheme have been erected on the Antigua Land Settlement area at Greencastle, and also at the village of All Saints and in other places. One of the most valuable aspects of the scheme is that it has already proved to be an encouragement and incentive to others of the artisan and peasant class to build new houses for themselves, and a much improved type of house is rapidly springing up over the island, even during these years of financial depression.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Some estates provide wooden houses which are rent free to their reliable labourers.

A scheme for improving housing conditions in Basseterre and Sandy Point was commenced late in 1930, and up to the present sixty-one model concrete houses have been built for labourers and artisans, forty-five at Basseterre and sixteen at Sandy Point.

This scheme was made possible by generous help from the Colonial Development Fund which took the form of a free grant of £6,500 and a loan of a similar sum, free of interest for five years.

A total sum of £8,126 1s. 2d. has so far been spent. Further construction was unfortunately in abeyance for some time pending consideration by the Secretary of State of the type of house and its cost and conditions of sale, but recently permission has been given to continue the scheme. Instalments paid by occupants are paid to a " revolving " fund which now exceeds £666.

The cottages consist of three rooms and an entrance verandah. The cost of each cottage including outbuildings and fences but excluding land is £122. Those in Basseterre are sold on a rental basis of 11s. 2d. a month and those in Sandy Point of 10s. a month. In each case payments continue for a period of fifteen years. In respect of houses given up it has been decided to increase the monthly instalments to 12s. 6d.

The larger residences and places of business in these islands are of two storeys, the lower one generally of stone, and the upper of wood. These buildings are provided with hurricane shutters as the islands are almost in the centre of the hurricane zone.

The islands are under sanitary supervision and the sanitary laws are rigidly enforced.

A quarantine station is maintained and a Clayton disinfecting apparatus is kept in working order.

Dominica.

While no housing scheme exists in Dominica, definite attempts have been made by the Roseau Town Council and the Portsmouth Town Board to control the erection of buildings; and to lay down rules governing frontages, spacing in relation to nearby buildings, and other matters designed to improve the amenities of the urban areas concerned.

Elsewhere no control is exercised and although housing conditions generally leave something to be desired, especially in such villages as Pointe Michel, anything in the nature of widespread reform can well await the return of more normal economic conditions and some measure of prosperity.

Montserrat.

The Government Housing Scheme for peasants continues to be attractive, and all houses built on Government lands at Webbs have been sold and occupied. A large number of applications for similar houses has been received from persons residing in the country districts. Many new houses have been built on the new town extension lands, and the only deterrent to further building is a lack of funds. An organized Building and Loan Society would be a boon to Montserrat. As a result of the erection of new houses the marked congestion of the town of Plymouth is slowly but steadily being alleviated.

Virgin Islands.

The housing conditions in the Virgin Islands, while possibly not ideal, are as good as in most other islands in the Colony. The average house of the peasant is a sturdy wooden building measuring about 20 ft. by 15 ft. with an acre or more of arable land. The present living conditions seem admirably suitable to the population which consists almost entirely of small landowners and fishermen. The wage-earning population is very small, being practically restricted to the limits of the town. Sanitary conditions are satisfactory and the general health is good. A local Board of Health controls the general health and sanitation and makes regulations for the general observance of and compliance with the sanitary regulations of larger places, in so far as they are applicable.

Practically all houses are owned by the occupiers and the general conditions may be described as clean and healthy.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Antigua.

There are two modern sugar factories, one at Gunthorpes, owned by the Antigua Sugar Factory Company (Henckel, Dubuisson and Company), and one at Bendals owned by the South Western Estates Company. The capacity of the former is approximately 22,000 tons and of the latter 4,000 tons. There were 23,875 tons of crystal sugar, of approximately 96 polarization, manufactured during 1933, as well as a small quantity of muscovado sugar at a minor factory. (The Antigua Sugar Factory is a 14-roller mill and can make a ton of sugar from less than 8 tons of cane.) The average yield of cane per acre was about 20 tons. The sugar is sold either to England or to Canada to be refined. The gyrotiller plough bought for £6,000 in 1931 by the Antigua Sugar Factory, with some assistance from the Colonial Development Fund, was of great service. The Antigua Sugar Factory owns about 38 miles of 2½ ft.-gauge and the Bendals Factory about 8 miles of 2 ft.-gauge railway, to bring in the canes from the estates over the island. Estates vary between 80 and 400 acres (reaping area). Both factories paid 14s. per ton of cane during 1933 but the usual system is a " first payment " of 5½ per cent. on the f.o.b. price of sugar, and a final distribution of half the profits. The approximate cost of production per ton of sugar is fairly constant as regards the manufacturing expenditure, which has been brought down by the Antigua Sugar Factory to about £2 15s.,* but with regard to the growing of the cane the cost varies considerably, and in a year of poor cane-yields the planting costs will rise to a very much higher figure than in a year when the yield per acre is high.

The Agricultural Department had a busy year in 1933 owing to the general extension of agricultural activities throughout the island, due to the good rainfall, coupled with the full development of the new Experimental Station and the Land Settlement scheme. From the Experimental Station 14,890 sugar-cane cuttings were distributed in Antigua, and also by special request 236 cuttings were sent to other islands. Likewise, 13,785 tomato plants, 16,000 onion seedlings, 170 budded limes and 382 budded oranges were distributed. The introduction of the fly parasite *Lyxophaga Diatracae* (commenced in 1931 to keep down the moth borer *Diatraea saccharalis*) appears to be most successful, and the final result is awaited with considerable confidence. The reduction of the moth borer pest should make a very great difference to the island's sugar output. This work is being carried on under Mr. H. E. Box, from Farnham Royal, being part of Dr. Myers' insect pest work in the West Indies, and is financed from Colonial Development funds.

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* Actual figure 1933 £2 18s. 8d.

Although a very good year for the growth of vegetable foods for the people and for the sugar-cane crop, 1933 was not a satisfactory year for the minor agricultural industries owing to the financial depression in purchasing countries. No vegetables were exported to Canada during the season under review. A trial shipment of tomatoes to the United Kingdom met with a favourable report as to quality but was financially a failure. Sea Island cotton suffered from the abnormal rainfall in 1932, and from pink boll-worm, and the quantity that was produced amounted to 78,600 lb. from 200 acres. The bulk of the cotton crop is grown by peasants and is purchased on a co-operative basis at a central ginnery. A first payment is made on the nominal prices ruling in England and ultimately 75 per cent. of the profits are paid over as a bonus.

It is unfortunate that in 1933 the financial results of the minor industries were not satisfactory, but this was due to abnormal world conditions. In normal times there is no reason why these minor industries should not flourish, and it is of the utmost importance that they should be encouraged, as there is a very grave risk in Antigua having all its eggs in one basket, and if the sugar industry should at any time collapse the whole population would be in a desperate position. At present some 12,000 acres (out of about 14,000 acres which are cultivated in the whole island) are under sugar, 97 per cent. of the exports are sugar, and about 90 per cent. of the labouring population are directly or indirectly dependent on sugar.

For this reason a Peasants' Land Settlement Committee was set up in 1929, under the chairmanship of the Governor, and early in 1930 a grant of £3,000 and a loan of £3,000 were obtained from the Colonial Development Fund to acquire and sub-divide certain large estates. Greencastle, Mathews and Bedgebury were purchased, a total area of some 1,700 acres, and during the next two years these were surveyed, drained, and partly ploughed; and then peasant families were placed on the allotments, which were—like the Housing Scheme—on the hire-purchase system. By the end of 1933 most of Greencastle and portions of Mathews and Bedgebury were taken up in approximately 5-acre lots, and in a number of cases model cottages on the lots were also erected at the request of the allottees. The Government Agricultural Experimental Station was transferred to Greencastle in 1931 so that it might become a visible model and lesson to the settlers surrounding it, and in addition to this, a special model allotment was made in the neighbourhood, and planted up, and careful records of revenue and expenditure taken, by the Agricultural Department. The Agricultural Superintendent and his officers pay constant visits to the peasants' holdings, and at intervals the Superintendent gives lectures at the Station to the peasants on practical agriculture. He also gives periodical agricultural lectures to the school teachers of the island, which they can pass on to the children in the schools. By this means it is hoped to establish in early life the rudiments of agricultural training among the labouring population. By the end of 1933, 96 family holdings were in full occupation at Greencastle and 94 at the Mathews-Bedgebury settlements. Some of the peasants at the latter have availed themselves of the gyrotiller plough, which is hired out, with its mechanics, at the rate of £2 an acre.

During 1933 portions of Jonas's Estate were also purchased for land settlement purposes, and at the end of the year were being surveyed.

During the last year or so ox-waggons have been fitted with pneumatic tyres which much facilitates the heavy work of field transport.

The following table shows the relative production of the principal crops in Antigua over a period of five years :—

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
Sugar (tons)	**10,755**	**18,267**	**4,977**	**19,168**	**23,875**
,, (value) ... ... £	**139,815**	**189,429**	**48,197**	**182,116**	**234,920**
,, acreage of cane reaped ...	**8,885**	**9,155**	**7,865**	**7,936**	**9,450**
Molasses (gals.)	**270,800**	**40,000**	**33,758**	**757,701**	**520,232**
,, (value) ... ... £	**1,956**	**1,482**	**715**	**12,782**	**1,084**
Cotton (lb.)	**61,540**	**72,497**	**131,700**	**22,500**	**8,400**
,, (value) ... ... £	**5,641**	**5,190**	**6,585**	**936**	**420**
Cotton Seed (tons)	**31**	**20**	**60**	—	—
,, ,, (value) ... £	**161**	**75**	**360**	—	—
Lime Juice, raw (gals.) ...	**1,120**	—	—	**1,280**	**9,189**
,, ,, ,, (value) £	**56**	—	—	**75**	**557**
Lime Juice, concentrated (gals.)	**1,440**	**300**	—	—	—
,, ,, ,, (value) £	**300**	**32**	—	—	—
Lime Oil, distilled (lb.) ...	—	**288**	**432**	**1,008**	**720**
,, ,, ,, (value) £	—	**416**	**438**	**3,808**	**874**
Limes, fresh (barrels)	**190**	**214**	**51**	**173**	**85**
,, ,, (value) ... £	**238**	**214**	**47**	**144**	**22**
Tomatoes (crates of 20 lb.) ...	—	—	**365**	**815**	**13**
,, (value) ... £	—	—	**130**	**196**	**3**
Onions (crates of 50 lb.)... ...	**237**	**371**	—	**1,805**	**26**
(value) ... ... £	**148**	**185**	—	**574**	**8**
Tamarinds (barrels)	—	**1,641**	**397**	**520**	**495**
,, (value) ... £	**4**	**1,641**	**348**	**456**	**427**
Coconuts	—	—	—	**5,800**	**33,400**
,, (value) ... £	—	—	—	**36**	**135**

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Sugar.—The sugar-cane crop of 1932-33 was grown under exceptionally favourable weather conditions and was the largest on record. The rainfall of 1932 was well distributed and the average precipitation of the island was the highest on record, amounting to 77·27 inches. Total production was somewhat reduced by the drought in the early part of 1933.

The area reaped in 1933 was 7,715 acres, about 1,200 acres more than in 1932. From this area 186,648 tons of cane were produced and the average yield per acre was 24·27 tons yielding 3·13 tons of sugar. The St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory manufactured 24,167 tons of sugar, which is 20 per cent. above any previous record. The value of the sugar was £239,595 and of the molasses produced £3,526. There were 23,000 tons of sugar exported and the balance was retained in the island for local consumption. The sugar was marketed at an average price of £9 18s. 3d., which was a trifle above the price obtained in 1932.

In Nevis the area under sugar-cane has been increased and 2,110 tons of canes were sold to the St. Kitts sugar factory. A small quantity of muscovado sugar was also produced.

Cotton.—The area under this crop was again reduced as there has been no improvement in the market for Sea-Island cotton. The area planted and the lint produced is given below :—

St. Kitts	130 acres.	20,430 lb. lint.
Nevis	100 ,,	10,042 ,, ,,
Anguilla	134 ,,	18,750 ,, ,,
Total	364 acres.	49,222 lb. lint.

The average price during the year was about 1s. per lb. for clean lint.

Vegetables.—The vegetable export trade with Canada during the winter months did not develop as rapidly as was at first anticipated. No shipments were made from St. Kitts in 1933 as the prices obtained in Canada in 1932 were too low to allow of any profit being made on the produce shipped.

There were 1,343 crates of tomatoes (26,519 lb.) and 6 crates of sweet potatoes shipped by the peasants in Nevis. The Government made an advance of 1 per cent. per lb. on the tomatoes and a loss of £77 was incurred.

Live Stock.—Conditions in Nevis in 1933 were again favourable for stock raising and generally the animals were maintained in good health and condition. The Government Zebu bulls were on service in the different herds and have done good work in improving the type of cattle. The Government has endeavoured to improve the type of sheep in the Presidency by the introduction of pure bred rams of the Black Headed Persian sheep from South Africa. During the year 340 head of stock were exported from Nevis to places outside the Presidency.

General.—The sugar-cane industry is carried on in St. Kitts by the employment of wage labourers on estates. There are few peasant farmers. There is only one central sugar factory on the island—the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory. All sugar producing areas are connected to this factory by a narrow-gauge railway line encircling the island. The normal rated capacity of the factory is 180,000 tons of cane, equivalent to about 20,000 tons of sugar. The boiling capacity of the plant is now being increased.

Sea-Island cotton is grown as a catch crop with cane.

All estates have a certain number of contract labourers, who live in estate houses and receive free medical attention and a free plot of land for growing ground provisions and vegetables.

In Nevis and Anguilla practically all of the land is worked by peasants. Some of these own their plots of land and others rent land, while others work the land and give a share of the produce as rent. In Nevis there are about 290 peasant proprietors owning approximately 450 acres of land. The peasants produce considerable quantities of ground provisions which find a ready market in St. Kitts.

There are Government Agricultural Instructors in Nevis and Anguilla, who pay frequent visits to peasants' holdings and endeavour to improve their methods of agriculture.

Satisfactory progress has been made with the land settlement schemes in Nevis and Anguilla.

The following table shows the relative production of the principal crops in St. Kitts-Nevis over a period of five years :—

		1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
Sugar (tons)	...	**12,736**	**17,637**	**12,021**	**19,969**	**22,588**
,, (value)	**£**	**150,153**	**178,654**	**110,234**	**197,466**	**234,747**
Molasses (gal.)	...	—	**9,495**	**589,700**	**459,404**	**630,749**
,, (value)	**£**	—	—	**5,759**	**2,971**	**2,897**
Cotton (lb.)	...	**709,619**	**778,761**	**245,500**	**85,018**	**88,550**
,, (value)	**£**	**66,407**	**65,484**	**12,364**	**4,250**	**4,701**
Cotton Seed (tons) ...	...	**383**	**364**	**388**	**35**	—
,, ,, (value) ...	**£**	**1,317**	**1,837**	**1,363**	**290**	—
Coconuts	...	**1,668**	**16,144**	**43,900**	**78,770**	**56,953**
,, (value) ...	**£**	**10**	**100**	**256**	**445**	**289**
Tomatoes (lb.)	...	—	—	**151,900**	**53,000**	**28,637**
,, (value) ...	**£**	—	—	**1,352**	**524**	**221**
Salt (tons)	...	**1,276**	**1,492**	**2,316**	**759**	**34**
,, (value)	**£**	**2,373**	**2,984**	**2,505**	**655**	**9**

Dominica.

Dominica is fast recovering from the disastrous effects of hurricanes on its agricultural industries and in most instances exports of agricultural products show a definite advance as compared with the previous year, despite the very low prices which generally obtained for all classes of agricultural produce.

The export of lime products, however, shows a further decline which was to be anticipated considering that practically all lime plantations were destroyed by the severe hurricane of 1930 and the epidemic of root disease which followed. Plantations have now been re-established with limes budded on disease- and wind-resisting stocks, and agriculturally the industry is on a much sounder basis than hitherto. It is estimated that approximately 1,500 acres are now planted in limes, a good proportion of which are commencing to bear or are approaching bearing age. Production of lime products should therefore be much greater in the near future. The principal lime products exported during 1933 and their local values were according to Treasury returns:—

	Value. £
Green limes—4,391 barrels and 3,203 crates ...	4,780
Raw juice—37,770 gal.	1,889
Concentrated juice—35,467 gal.	1,817
Distilled oil—9,302 lb.	10,288
Ecuelled oil—320 lb.	353

Producers were able to clear existing stocks of concentrated lime juice during the year, but the low price obtained did not warrant further production.

The fresh fruit industry is making considerable strides and production and export, especially of grapefruit and oranges, has greatly increased. All fruit for export to England, Canada, and Bermuda is selected and packed under the supervision of officers of the Agricultural Department at the Government Packing Depot. An industry is being promoted in the export of grapefruit juice. The principal exports and local values were as follows:—

	Value. £
Oranges—1,596 barrels and 5,659 crates ...	3,268
Grapefruit—5,981 crates	2,684
Avocado Pears—2,946 crates	567
Mangoes—6,872 crates	931

There is an increasing interest in banana-growing and exports of this fruit also show considerable increase. Exports made to England, Canada, and neighbouring islands amounted to 22,304 bunches, the estimated local value being £889.

Other products which show by the Treasury export figures an increase of production are cocoa, coffee, bay oil, and rum, the quantities and local values being as follows:—

	Value. £
Cocoa—358,112 lb.	2,550
Coffee—1,183 lb.	60
Bay oil—21,774 lb.	3,630
Rum—24,660 gal.	3,811

The production of copra in 1933 was actually greater than in the previous year although the export was slightly less, producers holding stocks in the hope of better prices. Newly established plantings are commencing to bear. The quantity shipped was 105,237 lb. and the estimated local value £882.

Under the Plant Distribution Scheme, financed by the Imperial Government, 161,270 budded or grafted fruit trees, 126,357 coffee and 47,491 cocoa plants, together with large numbers of other economic plants, have been propagated and distributed by the Agricultural Department since 1927. This work together with the financial assistance afforded to growers by the Government is undoubtedly playing a large part in the island's recovery.

A few of the principal estates are owned by Europeans, but the majority belong to local planters. There is a preponderance of peasant holdings which contribute to the production of staple products as well as supplying ground provisions for local consumption.

The raising of livestock is left to individual enterprise and the number raised is barely sufficient for local needs.

There is no organized fishing industry, but natives engage in fishing to meet the local demand for fresh fish.

The following table shows the relative production of the principal crops in Dominica over a period of five years :—

		1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
Limes, total crop estimated as " barrels "		**133,000**	**114,000**	**68,000**	**48,000**	**36,000**
Limes, green or fresh (barrels)		**16,896**	**17,461**	**10,867**	**8,394**	**4,391**
,, ,, ,, (value)	£	23,359	26,191	13,584	10,418	4,092
Lime juice, raw (gal.) ...		475,102	195,994	93,255	62,545	37,770
,, ,, ,, (value)...	£	47,509	9,800	3,886	2,911	1,889
Lime juice, concentrated (gal.)		35,446	45,832	3,211	5,561	35,467
,, ,, ,, (value)	£	8,122	5,729	241	193	1,817
Lime oil, distilled (lb.) ...		30,804	25,667	14,446	11,218	9,302
,, ,, ,, (value)	£	41,585	34,664	21,668	13,271	10,288
Lime oil, ecuelled (lb.) ...		5,256	1,551	2,158	617	320
,, ,, ,, (value)	£	17,081	4,216	4,611	677	353
Bay oil (lb.)		18,349	15,948	17,783	20,915	21,774
,, ,, (value)	£	4,358	3,987	4,447	3,683	3,630
Oranges (crates and barrels) ...		1,604	524	3,214	6,583	7,255
,, (value)	£	1,196	424	1,971	2,236	3,268
Grapefruit (crates)		1,249	917	1,531	3,954	5.981
,, (value) ...	£	829	458	767	1,937	2,684
Avocado Pears (crates)		1,568	1,090	670	1,254	2,946
,, ,, (value) ...	£	817	454	179	276	567
Mangoes (crates)		5,309	3,363	4,003	6,743	6,872
,, (value)	£	2,132	1,402	995	1,496	931
Cocoa (lb.)		275,145	409,536	218,773	269,099	358,112
,, (value)	£	3,999	6,826	1,595	1,837	2,550
Coconuts		63,662	96,802	50,355	116,840	109,357
,, (value) ...	£	199	404	344	384	223
Copra (lb.)		57,223	113,831	45,526	107,107	105,237
,, (value)	£	390	1,067	351	1,112	882
Rum (gal.)		54	68	1,380	11,520	24,660
,, (value)	£	12	16	252	1,587	3,811
Vanilla (lb.)		3,650	7,678	114	1,974	21
,, (value)	£	730	2,112	29	395	3
Bananas (bunches)		488	2,453	1,556	9,019	22,304
,, (value) ...	£	61	368	154	422	889

Montserrat.

In 1933 the island's agriculture was very favourably influenced by propitious climatic conditions, and no atmospheric disturbances were experienced. On the whole, agriculture showed signs of recovery in spite of the serious world-wide economic depression.

Cotton industry.—The cotton crop in 1933 was reaped from 2,182 acres. The season proved ideal and in many districts record productions were experienced. Insect pests and plant diseases were conspicuously absent and the year will ever be remembered as being one of the very best cotton seasons since the inception of the industry. The crop was produced chiefly by the peasants, who cultivated the Estates' lands on the half-share system, as the following interesting figures show:—

	Acres.
Planted by estates	104
Planted by peasants on Estate lands on the half-share system.	933
Planted by peasants on their own holdings ...	1,145

The disposal of the crop locally in the form of seed cotton by the peasants was quickly and keenly competed for by local purchasers. The average price paid was 2½ pence per lb. Exporters of lint effected ready sales in the United Kingdom and France at an average price of 12 pence per lb. Some small lots of lint shipped fetched as high as 14 pence per lb. The quality of the lint was very favourably reported on by brokers and spinners. The actual production of lint for the season was 477,097 lb., giving the very high average lint return per acre of 219 lb. During the year a West Indian Cotton Association was formed with the main object of promoting and protecting the British West Indian cotton industry. The Montserrat Cotton Growers' Association, formed in the previous year, became a member of the West Indian Sea-Island Cotton Association.

Citrus.—Heavy returns continue to be realized from lime fields, and the export trade of fresh limes to Canada and the United States of America showed considerable increase. Unfortunately the market prices were in some cases not very remunerative. It is felt, however, that a great advance has been made in the development of an export green lime trade, and with better prices in the future the export of green limes should be of the greatest value to the island.

Vegetable trade with Canada.—The chief crop, tomatoes, suffered adversely from an overstocked market, and average prices, at the peak of shipments, were extremely poor in Canada. Efforts to capture the United Kingdom and American tomato markets did not prove successful. A much improved carrot crop was disposed of in Canada, but prices were at a low level. Increased interest was centred around onion growing and production showed some improvement. The introduction of the Indian type of onion and the success attending efforts to produce seed locally during 1933 should be of great value to the industry in the future.

Bay oil and papain.—There is not yet a demand for these products at economic prices and these industries are still being impeded for want of markets.

The following table shows the relative production of the principal crops in Montserrat over a period of five years :—

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
Cotton (lb.)	616,389	709,061	400,389	187,131	599,631
,, (value) ... ... £	68,900	53,009	24,249	12,939	24,577
,, acreage planted	—	—	3,400	1,500	2,187
Cotton seed (tons)	145	208	263	141	216
,, ,, (value) ... £	926	1,024	919	437	723
Limes, green or fresh (barrels)	40	—	292	580	9,071
,, ,, ,, (value) £	26	—	148	625	1,324
Lime juice, raw (gal.)	1,833	—	22,840	29,134	48,691
,, ,, ,, (value) £	140	—	1,091	1,453	4,231
Tomatoes (crates of 20 lb.) ...	—	19,319	16,966	22,764	8,110
,, ,, ,, (value) £	377	3,397	2,832	5,824	1,309
Onions (lb.)	161,300	72,280	21,600	41,564	50,906
,, (value) ... ... £	1,104	400	179	300	335

Virgin Islands.

The produce consists of livestock, fish, and vegetables. Cattle, horses, sheep, and goats comprise the main items in the live stock industry. Poultry raising is an important secondary industry. The following figures show the estimated annual production, etc. :—

	Produced.	*Exported.*	*Used locally.*
Cattle (No.) ...	1,300	1,200	100
Sheep (No.) ...	500	400	100
Goats (No.) ...	2,800	2,100	700
Poultry (No.) ...	2,400	1,400	1,000
Swine (No.) ...	500	400	100
Fish (lb.)	65,100	35,100	30,000
Vegetables (lb.) ...	90,000	70,000	20,000

Attempts have been made from time to time to organize the production of various crops but without success. The islanders are thorough individualists and prefer to work independently.

No arrangements for contract or non-contract labour are in force, and owing to the fact that practically everyone is possessed of his own piece of land, paid labour is difficult to obtain.

There is practically no cultivation by European landowners. Cigar making is being tried again at the Experimental Station.

The owners of large quantities of land produce a fair amount of sugar-cane which is converted into rum. The entire output of this industry is consumed locally.

General.

There has been no material change in the economic conditions. Local produce continues to sell in small quantities only and prices are very low. Strenuous efforts are being made to encourage the inhabitants of the adjacent American islands to grow greater quantities of ground provisions and raise more stock. If the various land settlement schemes now being put through by the United States Government should prove a success the outlook for the peasants in the British Virgin Islands is grim. So far no remunerative staple crop has been found for the Virgin Islands peasants to produce in place of Sea-Island cotton. It therefore appears unsound to encourage them to increase their cultivation of local produce for which a market has not been found.

Occasional visits of French and Dutch schooners in quest of mules, horses and cattle have been very helpful but the quantities sold in this way do not compensate for the diminishing market of St. Thomas and St. Croix.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The total values of the imports and exports of the Colony for the past five years have been as follows :—

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports from United Kingdom	**275,441**	**237,911**	**210,508**	**246,592**	**269,129**
,, ,, Canada	**225,472**	**184,860**	**138,943**	**107,346**	**109,089**
,, ,, Rest of Empire ...	**144,957**	**116,323**	**96,280**	**87,966**	**93,473**
,, ,, United States of America.	**210,609**	**175,699**	**132,584**	**80,797**	**75,022**
,, ,, Other foreign countries.	**60,577**	**43,105**	**40,789**	**28,787**	**65,260**
Total ...	**917,056**	**757,898**	**619,104**	**551,488**	**611,973**
Exports to United Kingdom ...	**412,845**	**239,200**	**81,990**	**296,062**	**388,875**
,, ,, Canada	**54,270**	**271,796**	**128,560**	**114,047**	**108,997**
,, ,, Rest of Empire ...	**26,820**	**23,837**	**25,410**	**26,076**	**27,543**
,, ,, United States of America.	**105,773**	**66,050**	**33,157**	**33,452**	**26,174**
,, ,, other foreign countries.	**12,491**	**11,971**	**17,125**	**13,626**	**32,245**
Total	**612,199**	**612,854**	**286,242**	**483,263**	**583,834**
Percentage of value of exported sugar to total exports.	**48**	**69**	**58**	**82**	**81**

From the above it will be seen that sugar forms the bulk of the Colony's exports, and that any lowering of the value of sugar exports, due to hurricane, drought, or low prices, is at once reflected not only in the total export trade but automatically in the import trade, because there is less money in circulation. The year 1931 was a particularly bad one due to drought and, of course, low prices, and in consequence there was less money to spend in 1932, but there was a decided improvement during the year 1933. The percentages of imports are as follows, to the nearest unit :—

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
United Kingdom	30	31	34	45	44
Canada	24	24	22	19	18
Rest of the Empire	16	15	15	16	16
United States of America ...	23	23	21	15	12
Other foreign countries	6	6	7	5	10

The value of the total trade of the Colony as well as that of the imports and exports is shown in the following table :—

Year.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Total Trade.*
	£	£	£
1929	917,056	612,199	1,529,255
1930	757,898	612,854	1,370,752
1931	619,104	286,242	905,346
1932	551,488	483,263	1,034,751
1933	601,493	559,616	1,161,109

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The day wages of field labourers vary from 1s. to 2s. for men and 8d. to 1s. for women, with about 3s. to 6s. for artisans. But most of the field work on the estates is done by the task, and in the crop season labourers frequently perform two tasks a day, earning from 16s. to 20s. a week. In addition to this they are provided with free medical attendance, houses, and land for planting provisions. The wages of domestic servants are from 5s. to 12s. a week.

For office workers and professional men the cost of living is about the same as in the country districts of England. The rent of bungalows or small houses is about £40 to £60 a year. The hotels, which are more like small boarding-houses, charge about 12s. 6d. a day. The average prices of foodstuffs per lb. are : bread 4d., flour 2½d., fish 4d., beef 8d., and milk 4d. per quart.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education.

Educational facilities in the Colony are abundant (100 schools) and, on the whole, good. Elementary or primary schools (all free and undenominational) are maintained by Government throughout Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica, and are State-aided in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands. There is an advisory Board of Education in each Presidency. A sum of £27,839 was provided for education in 1933. Pupil teachers are trained locally for three years, and then selected ones are awarded studentships for higher training at the Rawle Training Institute in Barbados for men, or the Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College at Antigua for women. There are now 277 teachers and 190 pupil teachers in the primary schools of the Colony. There are 24,182 pupils in the primary schools.

Antigua.

The Boys' Grammar School, founded in 1884, is open to all races and denominations, but is the property of the Anglican diocese of Antigua. There are about 80 boys. The teaching staff consists of a headmaster and four assistants. The Government subsidy in 1933 was £500, in part return for which seven free Government scholarships of £12 a year are given.

The Girls' High School, founded in 1886, is open to all races and denominations, and has about 84 pupils, some 20 being boarders. The teaching is arranged for by a headmistress, a deputy, and five assistant mistresses, resident at the school. The Government subsidy in 1933 was £175, in part return for which there are five free Government scholarships.

The T. O. Robinson Memorial School, founded in 1898, is open to all races and denominations and has about 60 pupils, boys and girls. Miss Robinson, the proprietress, is aided by a teaching staff, and all the usual facilities for instruction and recreation are afforded. There is a School Board, and there is a Government subsidy of £75 a year.

On the 18th of September, 1933, a Convent High School was opened in St. John's, Antigua, under the auspices of the Roman Catholic denomination. The school is managed by four nuns of the Order of St. Augustine. At present there are 27 boys and 43 girls on the roll. The school receives no Government grant.

In Antigua there are 20 Government elementary or primary schools and one small grant-aided private one ; also at Barbuda there is a primary school managed by the Anglican authorities and receiving a Government grant of £90 per annum. There is at St. John's a small night school held in a Government school-building, under the auspices of Toc H.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The Boys' Grammar School is a Government school, and has about 40 pupils. In 1933, £983 was allocated for salaries of staff and £208 for equipment and scholarships.

The Girls' High School is maintained in a Government building, and a subsidy on a sliding scale is paid to the headmistress, Miss Pickard. There is also a Convent School managed by the Order of Missionary Canonesses of St. Augustine.

In Nevis there is a secondary school for boys and girls, owned by Miss Bridgewater, to whom a Government subsidy of £75 is paid.

There are 16 Government primary schools in St. Kitts, 10 in Nevis, and 5 in Anguilla. The number of children enrolled in these is 7,675.

Dominica.

There is a Government Grammar School for boys, with 47 pupils. A cheap private school, called St. Mary's Academy, with 40 boys, was also started in 1932. The Convent School for girls, managed by the Order of the Faithful Virgin, has 96 pupils. There is also a Wesley High School for girls, with 16 pupils. The Government maintains 28 primary schools, with a total enrolment of 7,791 pupils. Agricultural instruction is a useful feature in most of the Government schools of the Colony, but especially so in Dominica.

There are night schools at Roseau and Portsmouth, which are doing very good work.

Montserrat.

The Grammar School for boys is a Government institution, maintained at a cost of some £700 per annum. There is also a small secondary school for girls, which receives a Government grant of £100 per annum. There are 12 primary schools, grant-aided.

Virgin Islands.

There are 1,222 children enrolled in the primary schools, all denominational and Government-aided. There are no secondary schools.

Welfare.

A small Reformatory School exists at Antigua for about 20 boys. Reference has already been made in the chapter on the health of the Colony to homes for the aged and infirm and to the crèche system in the various Presidencies. A number of Mutual Friendly Societies exist with funds for sickness and burials, organized either in conjunction with the different churches or of an undenominational character.

There are Lodges of Freemasons in most of the Presidencies.

The principal religious denominations in the Colony are the Anglican, Wesleyan, Moravian Mission, Roman Catholic (very numerous in Dominica) and some minor sects of American origin. The Salvation Army has also rendered useful service of a general nature for some years past. The Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements have taken a firm hold in recent years and there are now about 1,000 of the former and 400 of the latter in the Colony. The Toc H. Association has been established in Antigua, the first branch in the West Indies. A branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has recently been established in Antigua.

Recreation.

Forms of recreation are plentiful for all classes. Sea-bathing in the warm blue-green water off the palm-fringed white beaches of Antigua and Anguilla is as good as can be found anywhere in the world; and in most of the other islands is better than at a great many much advertised resorts. Sailing and fishing are indulged in to a limited extent. Cricket is a sport that appeals to popular enthusiasm throughout the islands, and the inter-Presidential annual tournament always creates the greatest excitement. Tennis clubs exist in all the Presidencies, and tennis can be played on grass courts all the year round. Association football has become popular in recent years during the winter months. There is a 9-hole golf course at Antigua.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Sea.

The principal islands of the Colony are served by the following steamship companies:—

Canadian National.—From Canada.
Ocean Dominion.—From New York and from Canada.
Bermuda and West Indies (Furness Withy).—From New York.
Munson Line.—From New York.
Harrison Line.—From England.
Dawnic Steamship Corporation.—From New York.

Smaller steamships of the Dutch and French lines also call at St. Kitts, and schooners and sloops made irregular calls at most of the islands. His Majesty's ships, especially from the American and West Indies Station (headquarters Bermuda), occasionally spend a few days among the islands, particularly in the winter months. During 1933, 1,275 British steamships, of a total tonnage of 4,698,403 tons and 775 foreign steamships, of a total tonnage of 1,025,860 tons entered and cleared the ports of the Colony.

Air.

The branch of Pan-American Air-ways that flies between Miami and Trinidad calls regularly for passengers and mails on Wednesdays and Fridays at Antigua, which is a night stopping place on the south-bound journey.

Roads.

In Antigua there are 166 miles of roads (65 miles being main roads) traversed by motors, carriages, ox-wagons, horses and donkeys; the latter, pannier-carrying, being a feature of peasant transport for produce. There are also motor-omnibus companies in Antigua, as there are in most of the other islands. In St. Kitts there is a main road 30 miles in length encircling the island.

In Nevis there is a similar encircling road 18 miles in length. Anguilla has about 20 miles of especially good roads but there are only about a dozen cars in the island. Dominica roads are a most difficult problem owing to the mountains and rivers and frequent landslides. There are now about 30 miles of motor roads of good quality. A launch service takes the place of an impassable road between Roseau and Portsmouth. Montserrat has 68 miles of roads, but not more than half this distance is really suitable for motor traffic. The Virgin Islands have no motor roads, all land traffic being by horseback or donkey-back.

As mentioned in Chapter VI, there are narrow-gauge railways in Antigua and St. Kitts, but these are only for sugar transport.

Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones.

There is one series of postage stamps for the Colony, and a separate series for each of the five Presidencies.

There are central post offices at St. John's, Basseterre, Roseau, Plymouth, and Road Town; 17 sub-offices in Antigua and 1 in Barbuda, 10 in St. Kitts-Nevis, 13 in Dominica, 4 in Montserrat and 4 in the Virgin Islands. There is an annual overseas traffic of about two million letters and postal packages.

The telephone system throughout the islands is of the metallic earth system. In addition to the central exchange in each of the larger islands there are two sub-exchanges and 570 miles of telephone in Antigua; 3 sub-exchanges and 334 miles of telephone in St. Kitts-Nevis; 5 sub-exchanges and 590 miles of telephone in Dominica; and 2 sub-exchanges and 150 miles of telephone in Montserrat. There are also a few miles of telephone service in Anguilla.

The wireless telegraph system (owned by Cable and Wireless, Limited) is established at Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica, and a similar one owned by the Government but operated by the Company in Montserrat.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

British currency is legal tender throughout the Colony, but in the Virgin Islands where there is no bank and where practically all trade is done with St. Thomas, either American or Danish currency circulates along with British. Government accounts are kept in all the Presidencies in sterling, but in the banks and in many commercial houses the dollar system is used, at a standard rate of $4·80 to the £. Barclays Bank (D.C.O.) has branches at Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica. The Royal Bank of Canada has branches at Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica and Montserrat. These banks pay a Government stamp duty of £62 10s. per annum each in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis, £25 per annum each in Dominica, and £15 per annum in Montserrat. Each has a note issue of $5 notes, to the amount of between $30,000 and $50,000 in circulation. They charged in 1933 a rate of interest on overdrafts of 7 per cent. They each have a Savings Bank section, which was paying 2½ per cent. interest on deposits in 1933. Government Savings Banks also operate in the principal islands. Amounts to the credit of depositors on the last day of each of the last financial years were as follows :—

Government Savings Banks.

	31*st* *March, 1930.* £	31*st* *March, 1931.* £	31*st* *December, 1931.* £	31*st* *December, 1932.* £	31*st* *December, 1933.* £
Antigua	**18,581**	**16,461**	**15,341**	**16,371**	**16,534**
St. Kitts-Nevis	**4,209**	**4,063**	**4,003**	**4,077**	**3,925**
Dominica	**11,536**	**8,751**	**6,585**	**5,735**	**5,409**
Montserrat	**658**	**661**	**605**	**565**	**724**
Virgin Islands	**1,382**	**1,630**	**1,615**	**2,005**	**1,756**
Total for the Colony	**36,366**	**31,566**	**28,149**	**28,753**	**28,348**

The falling off in deposits since 1930 is partly due to competition from the private banks and partly to the general financial depression. There are no Agricultural Banks, except a small privately-managed one in the Virgin Islands.

Weights and Measures.

Weights and measures are standard Imperial and are periodically examined by Government Inspectors.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Colony.

Owing to the general financial depression practically no extraordinary public works were undertaken in the Colony during 1933, and the public works recurrent expenditure was kept at a minimum. Certain special public works were, however, continued with funds provided by the Colonial Development Fund and usually under the supervision of special officers.

Antigua.

Staff.—A Superintendent of Public Works is assisted by two Road Overseers and a Clerk and Storekeeper. The Superintendent is also Superintendent of the asylum and Chairman of the City Commissioners.

Works undertaken during the year consisted of the usual maintenance of Government buildings, wharves, waterworks, and roads.

Colonial Development Fund works.—The Housing Scheme was temporarily in abeyance, but nine more houses were built in the latter half of the year.

A very essential drain of approximately 1,300 ft. in length was put down in Ottos village.

Surveys and plans for the completion of the Water Scheme have been made and a report has been sent to England for submission to the Consulting Engineer.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Only ordinary maintenance work was undertaken. The road system was maintained as usual, several long stretches being macadamized and tests made at oiling some heavy graded curves.

A further length of 2,000 lineal yards of the main streets in Basseterre were oiled.

Colonial Development works.—The works undertaken under this head were in the nature of surveys necessary for the plans and estimates of the various schemes. No actual construction work was done.

Dominica.

Staff.—A Colonial Engineer assisted by two Road Overseers and an Electrician comprise the senior Public Works staff here.

Works undertaken.—The main activities of the Public Works Department have been devoted to schemes under the Colonial

Development Fund. Under this latter head a road scheme costing £26,300 has been completed and also the drainage of the Portsmouth swamp. There is under construction a road from Portsmouth to Hatton Garden estimated to cost £36,000 of which 2⅛ miles had been completed by the end of the year.

Montserrat.

The staff of this department consists of the Commissioner who is *ex officio* Superintendent of Public Works, an Inspector of Works and Roads, a Clerk and Storekeeper, and other employees.

During the year the jetty at Plymouth was reconstructed, and the quarters of the Curator of the Botanical Gardens were rebuilt.

Colonial Development works.—Seven more model houses were constructed. The water supply for Plymouth was improved, and extended in the country districts.

Virgin Islands.

The Commissioner supervises any public works. During the year the customary minor repairs to public buildings were carried out. Roads and tracks received as much attention as funds allowed.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The Superior Courts of the Colony are presided over by the Chief Justice or a Puisne Judge. Circuit Courts with a jury of nine, are held three times a year each at Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica and Montserrat, and, as occasion requires, at Tortola. The Attorney-General or the Crown Attorneys have the function of a Grand Jury. A Court of Summary Jurisdiction, without a jury, for civil cases where less than £50 is involved, is held monthly in Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica, and the Virgin Islands, on alternate months in Montserrat, and quarterly in Anguilla. The Commissioner of the Virgin Islands acts as Deputy Judge for this purpose. Appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the West Indian Court of Appeal, and from the Summary Courts to the Supreme Court. Magistrates in each Presidency deal with minor cases. In Antigua there are two Magistrates (one being for Barbuda), in St. Kitts-Nevis four, in Dominica three, and in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands one each (the Commissioners). The principal Magistrate in St. Kitts and Dominica is also the Crown Attorney. Appeals from the Magistrates' Courts go to a Judge of the Supreme Court, and in further appeal to the Full Court, which is held twice a year in Antigua and consists of the Chief Justice and one or two Puisne Judges. The time for the payment of fines may be deferred, or they may be paid in instalments.

In each Presidency there are Justices of the Peace, but with very limited powers. Any two may act for a Magistrate, if the latter is an interested party. First offenders are frequently bound over and the assistance of one of the clergy invoked to help the person. Juvenile offenders are usually dealt with at a separate hour of the Court or else in the Magistrate's room.

The following table shows the numbers of persons convicted in the Summary and Supreme Courts of the Colony during 1933.

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Mont-serrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*	*Total.*
Magistrates' Courts ...	3,168	2,608	1,646	1,211	81	8,714
Supreme Court ...	8	16	14	6	—	44

The total number of cases heard and of persons convicted of various crimes in the Colony over a period of five years is as follows:—

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
Magistrates' Courts (cases heard)	12,020	11,798	11,723	11,443	12,326
Magistrates' Courts (convictions)	8,334	8,142	8,064	7,697	8,823
Supreme Court (convictions) ...	68	69	105	86	44

The following table shows the number of offences dealt with by the Magistrates in 1933 as compared with 1932 in all the Presidencies. It is satisfactory to note that there were 1,720 less cases than in 1932.

		Total number of offences reported.	*Offences against the person, including Homicide.*	*Praedial Larceny.*	*Offences against Property other than Praedial.*	*Other Offences.*
Antigua ...	1932	4,410	1,114	111	226	2,959
	1933	4,299	1,048	64	99	3,088
St. Kitts-Nevis.	1932	4,316	1,308	127	419	2,462
	1933	3,616	686	342	165	2,423
Dominica	1932	2,896	880	143	412	1,461
	1933	2,478	609	71	184	1,614
Montserrat	1932	2,269	395	178	121	1,575
	1933	1,828	240	126	94	1,368
Virgin Islands.	1932	155	37	7	—	111
	1933	105	11	—	6	88
Totals	1932	14,046	3,734	566	1,178	8,568
	1933	12,326	2,594	603	548	8,581

Police.

The Police Force is a Federal one and consists of two Inspectors, four Sub-Inspectors, and 146 non-commissioned officers and men, all under the command of a Chief Inspector who has his headquarters at Antigua, where the junior Sub-Inspector is also normally stationed for training. An Inspector and Sub-Inspector are usually stationed in Dominica, and the same in St. Kitts-Nevis. In Montserrat there is usually a Sub-Inspector. The Chief Inspector of Police is also Commandant of the Defence Force of the Colony. and the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors hold rank therein as Captains and Lieutenants respectively.

The period of first enlistment and re-engagement for non-commissioned officers and men is three years, and during 1933 50 non-commissioned officers and men re-engaged for further terms of three years. All men take part in musketry training and ambulance work in addition to their ordinary police duties. There are also 341 local constables enrolled, who can be called upon when required for extra assistance in the country districts. Police stations are established at the following centres:—

Antigua.—All Saints, Bolans, Liberta, Old Road, Parham, St. John's, Willikies. *Barbuda. Dominica.*—Capuchin, Castle Bruce, Colihaut, Grand Bay, La Plaine, Mahaut, Marigot, Portsmouth, Pt. Michel, Pt. Mulatre, Rosalie, Roseau, St. Joseph, Soufriere, Vieille Case. *Montserrat.*—Cudjoe Head, Harris, Plymouth, Salem. *St. Kitts.*—Basseterre, Cayon, Dieppe Bay, Old Road, Sandy Point, St. Johnston Village. *Nevis.*—Charlestown, Cotton Ground, Gingerland, New Castle. *Anguilla. Virgin Islands.*—Road Town.

Prisons.

The central prison for the Colony is at St. John's, Antigua, and is under the charge of the Chief Keeper of Prisons (a retired Naval Commander). It has accommodation for 128 males and 47 females, and is staffed by a Head Warder, a Matron, 10 Warders, and one Wardress. £1,049 was expended on personal emoluments during the year. Instruction is given to the male prisoners in carpentry, tin-smithing, baking, and to the females in laundry and sewing. £108 was expended on supplies for the workshop during the year, and £136 was received for articles sold. Elementary education is voluntarily given to some of the more illiterate prisoners by certain members of the Toc H. Association, and the Prison Chaplain gives instruction in religion. Prisoners are also employed within the prison on stone-breaking, cleaning, etc., and certain of the male prisoners outside on road-work, in the Botanic gardens, pauper cemetery, and other public institutions. The prison bakery made over 23,309 lbs. of bread during the year, supplying both the Prison and the Reformatory Training School.

There were 107 males and 47 females committed during the year, 9 males and 2 females coming from Montserrat. No prisoners were received from the other Presidencies. The daily average was 51 males and 8 females. Two prisoners escaped during the year, but were recaptured after a few days. There are 72 individual cells for males and 20 for females; and 7 association cells to hold 5 each for males, and 3 to hold 3 each for females. There is an average of 1,370 cubic feet of cell space per prisoner. There is also an infirmary on the male side to hold 9 and another on the female side to hold 3. The Prison Medical Officer pays daily visits. Prisoners who are seriously ill are treated under suitable precautions at the island hospital. One Warder died during the year. There are 13 Visiting Justices to the Prison, who hold periodical meetings there to enquire into complaints and to consider questions of prison discipline. The boys' Reformatory School has already been referred to in the chapter on Education.

Numbers of male prisoners.
Daily average in Prisons of the Colony for five years.

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
Antigua (Central Prison)	52	79	97	79	51
St. Kitts-Nevis	20	20	26	27	41
Dominica	26	24	25	20	36
Montserrat	9	7	7	8	10
Virgin Islands	—	—	—	—	—
Total	107	130	155	134	138

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The prison is at Basseterre and consists of a group of stone buildings surrounded by a 14 ft. wall. On the male side there are 16 cells of 18 ft. by 10 ft. each, and on the female side 10 cells of about the same size. The average cubic foot space per prisoner is 1,418 ft.

During the year 317 males and 115 females were committed, mostly on short sentences. The staff consisted of a Keeper and 6 male Warders and a Matron and a Wardress at a cost of £569. Prisoners are taught and employed in the same manner as at Antigua, and sick prisoners are dealt with in a similar fashion.

Dominica.

The prison is at Roseau, and consists of a group of stone buildings enclosed by a high stone wall. There are 18 cells for males and 8 for females, with an average cubic space per prisoner of 1,290 ft. During the year 283 males and 161 females were committed, the sentences ranging from 5 years to 1 week. The staff consisted of a Keeper, 6 male Warders, a Matron, and one Wardress, at a cost of £592. Prisoners are taught and employed in the same manner as at Antigua, and sick prisoners are dealt with in similar fashion.

Montserrat.

The prison at Plymouth is stone-built, small but sufficient for requirements. There are eight cells for males and three for females, with an average cubic space per prisoner of 1,266 ft. During the year 128 males and 41 females were committed. The staff consisted of a Keeper, a male Warder, and a Matron, at a cost of £156. Male prisoners with sentences over six months and females with sentences of over two months are transferred to the Antigua Prison.

Virgin Islands.

The prison at Tortola is a large stone building more than sufficient for the needs of the Presidency. Only two prisoners were committed during the year, both for minor offences; they were sentenced to one week and two weeks respectively. The staff consisted of a Keeper and a Matron, at a cost of £14.

All the prisons of the Colony are kept scrupulously clean, and in St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat the Inspectors of Police have supervising powers as officers-in-charge of prison discipline.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Colony.

The annual session of the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands opened on the 27th of January, 1933, and passed fourteen Acts, including two Appropriation Acts. New legislation consisted of the Imperial Lighthouse Dues Act, 1933, signifying the opinion of that Legislature that all lawful fees ordered by His Majesty in Council under the provisions of Section 670 of the Merchant Shipping Act (57-58 Vic. c. 60) ought to be levied in this Colony; and the Official Emoluments Levy Act, 1933, enforcing a temporary levy upon all public officials during the period April to December, 1933.

There were 33 Statutory Rules and Orders issued dealing chiefly with administrative routine. They included Supreme Court, Escheat and Patent Rules, Leeward Islands Scholarship, and Petty Officers' Dress Regulations.

Antigua.

The Legislative Council passed 17 Ordinances including two Appropriation Ordinances. New legislation consisted of the Official Emoluments Levy Ordinance, a Cotton Export Levy Ordinance to raise funds for the marketing of Sea-Island Cotton, the Shop Regulations Ordinance introducing legislation governing shops and shop hours similar to the Imperial legislation, a Pedlar's Licence Ordinance and provisions for special control and deposit of security by motor-bus owners plying for hire in the Presidency.

Twenty-two Statutory Rules and Orders were issued dealing with matters of administrative routine and the new legislation mentioned above.

Dominica.

The Legislative Council passed 13 Ordinances including two Appropriation Ordinances. The only new legislation was the Official Emoluments Levy Ordinance.

Thirteen Statutory Rules and Orders were issued dealing with matters of administrative routine.

Montserrat.

The Legislative Council passed 12 Ordinances including two Appropriation Ordinances. The only new legislation was the Official Emoluments Levy Ordinance.

Nine Statutory Rules and Orders were issued including an Order imposing a Levy on Cotton exported, and a Proclamation on Plants Protection.

St. Christopher-Nevis.

The Legislative Council passed 22 Ordinances including three Appropriation Ordinances. New legislation included the Registration of Clubs, the Official Emoluments Levy, and Cattle Brand Registration.

There were 14 Statutory Rules and Orders issued dealing with matters of administrative routine.

Virgin Islands.

The Governor made five Ordinances including three Appropriation Ordinances. The Official Emoluments Levy Ordinance was the only new legislation.

One Proclamation was issued in connexion with the prohibition or conditional importation of bananas, limes, and various other fruits and vegetables.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The following is a comparative table of the local revenue and expenditure of the Colony as a whole and its five component Presidencies for the past five financial years, excluding the broken period of nine months in 1931 when a change to the calendar system took place.

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Montserrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*	*Leeward Islands Colony.*
1928–29.						
Revenue	**95,057**	**100,067**	**67,946**	**27,830**	**9,120**	**300,020**
Expenditure ...	**96,422**	**103,192**	**62,705**	**29,778**	**9,487**	**301,584**
Surplus or Deficit ...	**−1,365**	**−3,125**	**+5,241**	**−1,948**	**−367**	**−1,564**
1929–30.						
Revenue	**83,701**	**97,987**	**70,674**	**27,389**	**6,787**	**286,538**
Expenditure ...	**93,930**	**97,352**	**68,356**	**26,879**	**6,871**	**293,388**
Surplus or Deficit ...	**−10,229**	**+635**	**+2,318**	**+510**	**−84**	**−6,850**
1930–31.						
Revenue	**73,730**	**90,604**	**63,440**	**25,176**	**5,707**	**258,657**
Expenditure ...	**91,351**	**97,659**	**71,178**	**28,805**	**7,027**	**296,020**
Surplus or Deficit ...	**−17,621**	**−7,055**	**−7,738**	**−3,629**	**−1,320**	**−37,363**
1932.						
Revenue	**73,223**	**80,963**	**52,380**	**19,344**	**5,723**	**231,633**
Expenditure ...	**82,512**	**84,250**	**68,278**	**23,961**	**6,420**	**265,421**
Surplus or Deficit ...	**−9,289**	**−3,287**	**−15,898**	**−4,617**	**−697**	**−33,788**
1933.						
Revenue	**88,061**	**91,714**	**57,207**	**17,564**	**4,485**	**259,031**
Expenditure ...	**81,006**	**82,896**	**64,360**	**26,763**	**6,782**	**261,807**
Surplus or Deficit ...	**+7,055**	**+8,818**	**−7,153**	**−9,199**	**−2,297**	**−2,776**

It will be noticed that, whereas the revenue of the Colony is the largest for the last three years the expenditure is less than last year which was the lowest for five years.

The following assistance was afforded to the Colony from Imperial Funds during the year :—

	£
Antigua—	
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes	9,219
St. Kitts-Nevis—	
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes	1,703
Dominica—	
Loan in aid of administration	25,528
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes	8,233
Montserrat—	
Loan in aid of administration	15,000
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes	1,610

The Public Debts and Sinking Funds of the Colony as at 31st December, 1933, were as follows :—

	Total Debt. £	*Sinking Fund (Market value).* £
Antigua	45,000	25,345
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	40,500	23,584
Dominica	6,000	709
Montserrat ...	3,000	1,566
Virgin Islands ...	Nil.	Nil.
Total	£94,500	£51,204

The main heads of taxation and their yields were approximately as follows :—

	Antigua. £	*St. Kitts-Nevis.* £	*Dominica.* £	*Mont-serrat.* £	*Virgin Islands.* £	*Total.* £
Customs	50,973	47,833	26,256	10,193	1,811	137,066
Harbour, etc., dues ...	1,942	9,669	2,864	273	33	14,781
Internal Revenue ...	13,156	22,947	14,155	3,654	1,180	55,092
Fees of Offices ...	6,028	3,952	2,882	1,101	422	14,385
Post Office Telephones, Light, etc.	4,709	6,121	5,854	1,844	159	18,687
Miscellaneous... ...	10,592*	221	101	102	399	11,415

The Customs Tariff is arranged on either an *ad valorem* or a specific basis. The *ad valorem* rate is mainly on manufactured articles and is usually 10 per cent. British preferential and 15 per cent. general. As a result of the Ottawa Conference, certain improvements in favour of Empire goods were made in the tariffs throughout the Colony. Excise duties are leviable on locally made spirits or tobacco in such Presidencies as make them. Stamp duties are governed by Federal Statutes and are uniform throughout the Colony. There is no hut or poll tax.

---

* Includes £10,454 gain on redemption of £100,000 Inscribed Stock Loan at 31st March, 1933.

APPENDIX.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

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Name.	*Author.*	*Publisher.*	*Date.*	*Price.*
Leeward Islands Gazette ...	—	Antigua Government Printing Office.	Weekly	8s. 4d. per annum in Leeward Islands: 12s. 6d. elsewhere.
Leeward Islands Blue Book	—	Do. do.	Annually	8s. 4d.
Leeward Islands List	—	Do. do.	do.	1s. 6d.
St. Christopher-Nevis Gazette	—	St. Kitts Bulletin Office	Weekly.	4s. 2d. per annum
Dominica Gazette	—	Dominica Chronicle ...	Weekly	6d. per copy.
Report by Sir Sydney Armitage-Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission to the Leeward Islands and St. Lucia (Cmd.3996).	—	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	1932	2s. 0d.
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Trinidad, Barbados, Leeward Islands and Windward Islands. Report of a Commission appointed to consider Problems of Primary Education (Colonial No. 79).	—	Do. do.	1933	2s. 0d.
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Name.	*Author.*	*Publisher.*	*Date.*	*Price.*
Pocket Guide to West Indies	Sir A. Aspinall	Sifton Praed & Co., Ltd.	1931	10s. 6d.
Hints to Settlers in Dominica	Sir H. Bell ...	Imperial Department of Agriculture.	1903	—
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Name.	*Author.*	*Publisher.*	*Date.*	*Price.*
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English in the West Indies ...	J. A. Froude ...	Longman, Green & Co.	1888	18s. 0d.
Cradle of the Deep	Sir Frederick Treves.	Smith, Elder & Co. ...	1908	12s. 0d.
A Wayfarer in the West Indies	Sir A. Aspinall	West India Committee	1928	8s. 0d.

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Name.	*Author.*	*Publisher.*	*Date.*	*Price.*
An Account of the Island of Antigua.	John Luffman ...	T. Cadell, Strand, London.	1798	—
Campaign in the West Indies in the year 1794.	Willyams ...	T. Bensley, London ...	1796	—
Christopher Codrington, 1668–1710.	Vincent T. Harlow	Clarendon Press ...	1928	18s. 0d.
Chronological History of the West Indies.	Captain Thomas Southey.	Longman Rees; Orme Brown & Green.	1827	—
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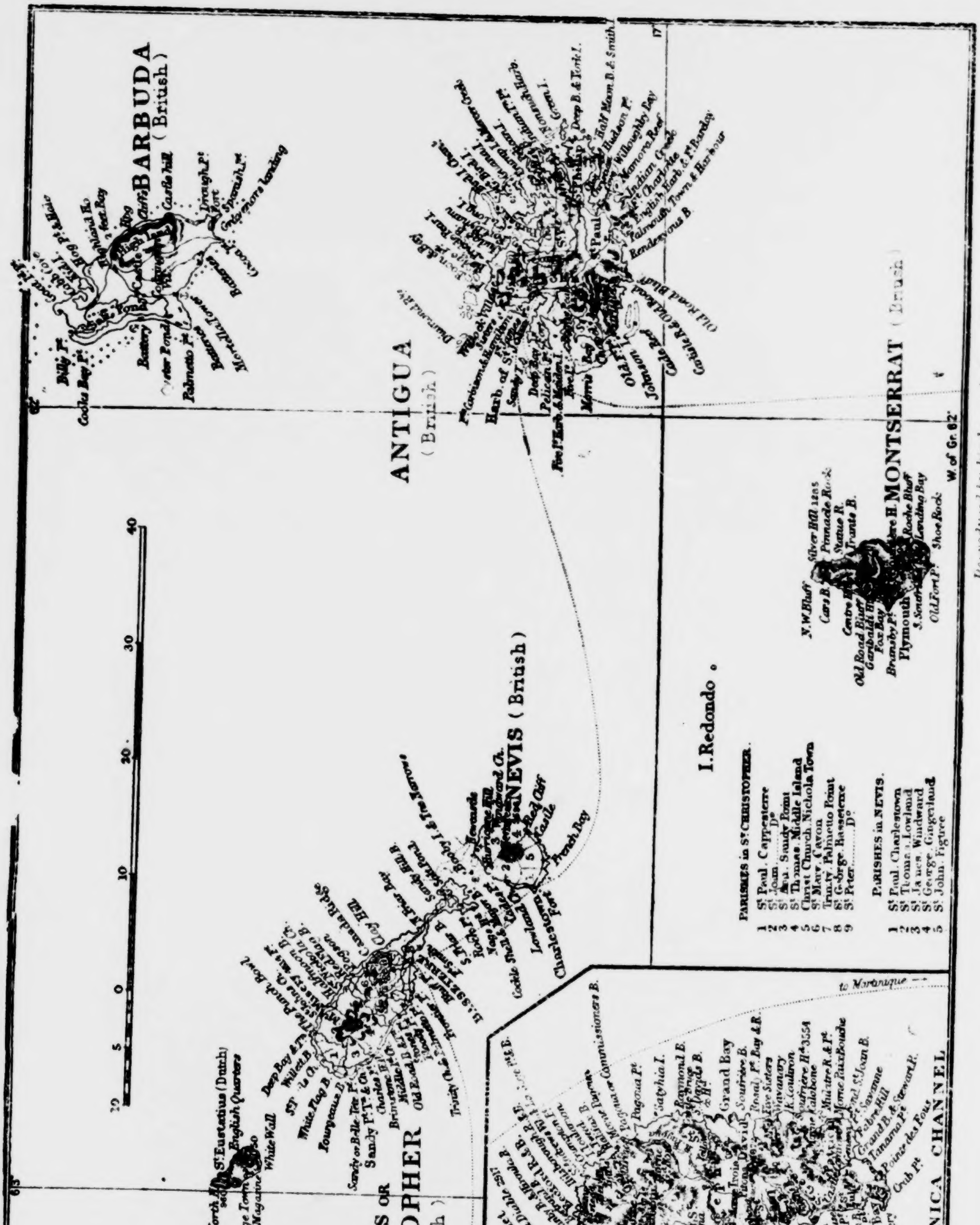
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[*Continued on page 3 of cover.*]

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Colony of the Leeward Islands, with a total area of 726 square miles, consists of a number of islands belonging partly to the Lesser Antilles and partly to the Greater Antilles. Antigua, Barbuda, St. Christopher (St. Kitts), Nevis, and Montserrat lie between West longitude 61° and 63°, and around North latitude 17°, but Dominica is about 100 miles to the south, separated by the French island of Guadeloupe from the rest. The Virgin Islands, Sombrero, and Anguilla on the other hand lie some distance away to the north-west. The Virgin Islands, St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat, and Dominica are mostly volcanic in origin with mountains rising to 1,780, 3,711, 3,596, 3,002, and 4,750 feet respectively, while Antigua, Barbuda, and Anguilla are sedimentary and are subject to drought.

All the islands are refreshed by the cooling trade winds, though Dominica, with its heavy intervening mountain system, becomes very hot and steamy at certain times of the year. The rainfall registered at the different Botanic Stations for 1934 was as follows:—Antigua 53 inches, St. Kitts 52 inches, Dominica 59 inches, Montserrat 51 inches, Virgin Islands 53 inches. The mean temperature was about 81° F.

Politically the Colony is divided into five Presidencies, (*a*) Antigua, with Barbuda and Redonda, (*b*) St. Christopher-Nevis, with Anguilla, (*c*) Dominica, (*d*) Montserrat, and (*e*) the British Virgin Islands (which are in close proximity to the American Virgin Islands). These five Presidencies have been united and separated at various times in their history, and were finally federated in 1871 by an Imperial Act. A Commission, consisting of General Sir Charles Fergusson, Bt., G.C.B., Sir Charles Orr, K.C.M.G., with Mr. S. MacNeill Campbell of the Colonial Office as Secretary, was sent out at the end of 1932 to report upon the possibilities of closer union of the Leeward Islands with other West Indian Colonies.

From a historical point of view the Leeward Islands Colony is probably the most interesting in the Empire.

St. Kitts was the first island in the West Indies to be systematically colonized by the English, Sir Thomas Warner, captain of the King's Body Guard, bringing out a number of farmers and artisans for that purpose in 1623. In 1666, 1689, and 1782 it was captured by the French, and in the latter year the famous defence of Brimstone Hill took place, a gallant action which ultimately enabled Rodney to defeat the French fleet at " The Saints " and save the then Colonial Empire.

In Nevis in 1787, Nelson, then aged 25 and acting as Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands Naval Station, married the young and attractive widow Nisbet, who survived him. In 1757 Alexander Hamilton, the founder of the American Constitution, was born in Nevis, the son of a Scottish planter.

Antigua is the headquarters of the Colony, the residence of the Governor, and also the Archbishop of the West Indies. The island was settled by Sir Thomas Warner's son in 1632, and only once, in 1666, was it captured by the French. At Antigua is the historic old Naval Dockyard, first built in 1725, where Nelson lived between 1785 and 1787. It lies in a romantic narrow inlet, English Harbour, and is to-day just as it was left when the last of the old frigates was warped out. Efforts are now being made to preserve the ruined buildings so that it may be an Empire memorial to the Navy of the famous days of " England's wooden walls."

Dominica was originally declared as neutral territory between the French and English, but became English by the Treaty of Paris in 1763. In 1771 it was made a separate Colony, but was rejoined to the Leeward Islands in 1832. During that period, however, it was captured and held by the French for five years until restored to England by the Treaty of Versailles in 1783.

In 1805 the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (the old 46th) and the local Militia distinguished themselves in a gallant resistance to General La Grange and a great invading force.

Montserrat was settled by Sir Thomas Warner in 1632, but was captured (and subsequently restored) by the French in 1666 and 1782.

The Virgin Islands were first settled by Dutch farmers, who became buccaneers in 1648. English buccaneers drove them out in 1666, and in 1672 the islands were absorbed into the Leeward Islands Colony. But for a long time "Dead Man's Chest," Anegada, and other islands were the haunts of pirates.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

There is one Governor-in-Chief of the Colony, and his representatives in the Presidencies of St. Christopher-Nevis and Dominica are styled Administrators, and in those of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, Commissioners.

The Colony possesses Federal Executive and Legislative Councils, the members of the former and the official members of the latter being appointed by the Crown, while the unofficial members of the Federal or General Legislative Council (three each from Antigua and St. Christopher-Nevis, two from Dominica, and one from Montserrat) are elected by and from the nominated unofficial members of the Legislatures of their respective Presidencies. There is also a nominated unofficial member for the Virgin Islands on the General Legislative Council.

Each Presidency has an Executive and Legislative Council, with the exception of the Virgin Islands, which has only an Executive Council. The Presidential Legislative Councils have concurrent legislative powers with the General Legislative Council on specified subjects so far as their "Ordinances" are not repugnant to the "Acts" of the latter. Each Legislative Council is limited to three years' duration.

The Antigua Legislative Council, previously partly elected and partly nominated, passed an Act in 1898 abrogating itself and substituting the Crown Colony system. By an Ordinance of 1910 the duration of the Council is limited to three years.

The St. Kitts and Nevis forms of Legislative Council, partly elected and partly nominated, were abolished by an Act of 1878, and the Crown Colony system substituted.

The Dominica Legislative Council, like that in Antigua, was changed in 1898, but in 1924 an Ordinance was passed allowing for the election of four of the unofficial members.

The Montserrat Legislative Council was similarly changed in 1866.

There has been no Legislative Council in the Virgin Islands since 1902.

Municipal Government.—In Antigua (St. John's) there is a (partly unofficial) municipal body called the "City Commissioners"; in Dominica (Roseau and Portsmouth) there is a partly elected Town Council in the former place, and a nominated Town Board in the latter.

III.—POPULATION.

The estimated population on 31st December, 1934, was as follows:—

		Area (Sq. miles).	*Principal Town (approximate population).*
Antigua	32,059	108	St. John's (10,000).
Barbuda ...	1,001	62	—
St. Kitts... ...	18,787	68	Basseterre (8,000).
Nevis	13,373	50	Charlestown (1,200).
Anguilla ...	5,361	34	—
Dominica ...	46,298	305	Roseau (8,000).
Montserrat ..	13,161	32	Plymouth (2,000).
Virgin Islands ...	5,488	67	Road Town (400).
Total ...	135,528	726	

The decennial census of 1931 was not taken in view of the financial condition of the Colony in that year, but the members of the different races at the time of the previous census were as stated below, and although the population has now generally increased it is probable that the proportions are about the same.

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Montserrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*
White ...	914	1,219	556	112	36
Coloured ...	3,999	6,204	11,563	2,503	1,158
Black ...	24,854	30,791	24,940	9,505	3,888

The birth and death rates per 1,000 in 1934 were as follows:—

	Birth-rate.	*Death-rate.*	*Infant Mortality.*
Antigua and Barbuda	39·6	20·0	125·5
St. Kitts	45·2	30·7	229·4
Nevis	28·1	12·3	103·7
Anguilla	35·6	11·2	115·8
Dominica	35·7	17·2	106·8
Montserrat	39·9	14·3	94·3
Virgin Islands ...	38·6	17·4	68·8

Infantile mortality for the past five years has been as follows:—

	1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
Antigua and Barbuda...	191	185	93	175	125
St. Kitts	186	185	167	180	229
Nevis	156	186	102	73	104
Anguilla	130	92	53	76	116
Dominica	124	170	88	126	107
Montserrat	78	172	89	134	94
Virgin Islands ...	83	101	136	165	69

The emigration and immigration figures of the Colony about balance during recent years. Before the embargo on free emigration to the United States, Cuba, and Curaçao, the emigration figures considerably outnumbered those of immigration. There is still a certain amount of emigration for work on the sugar estates in the Dominican Republic, but it is seasonal and the men usually return the same year.

IV.—HEALTH.

General.

The Colony, which from November to May is only semi-tropical, is gradually becoming known as a health resort, and more visitors are coming yearly, especially during the winter months, from the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States of America.

Good hospitals are established in the principal centres, and there are twenty-five Government Medical Officers stationed throughout the Colony. There is also a system of village dispensaries. Water supplies in most of the islands are good and plentiful. Legislation regarding bakeries and dairies is in force, and the meat markets are regularly inspected. The ordinary diseases found in tropical countries prevail, but not usually in a serious form. There is a central lunatic asylum (163 patients) at Antigua, and leper homes at Antigua (31 patients) and St. Kitts (52 patients). Cases of ankylostomiasis, filariasis, dysentery, yaws, and malaria are found in varying numbers.

Tuberculosis and venereal diseases are frequently found among the poorer classes, but special clinics have lately been established with very satisfactory results.

Infant welfare has received much attention recently, and crêches have been set up in many centres. The teeth of the school children in the larger islands have also been receiving special care from travelling dentists subsidized by the Government. Homes for the aged and infirm are now established in Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica and Montserrat.

Antigua.

Bacteriological laboratory.—The work in the laboratory has continued and has been found most useful and essential to the District Medical Officers and the whole community. During the year 2,791 examinations were made, of which 1,852 were blood examinations for malaria, 435 Kahn tests, and 30 Widal tests; various other tests comprising the remainder.

Venereal diseases.—Treatment has been decentralized in order to permit of patients obtaining treatment at the district dispensaries nearest their homes. There are 21 such centres.

Infant welfare.—There are three Government crêches and a voluntary crêche in St. John's. These crêches are under the supervision of a Superintendent of District Nurses and of Child

Welfare. The crêches are well patronized and are a great boon to the working women, who leave their infants at the crêche all day while they are working in the fields on the estates.

Sanitation.—The Central Country Board of Health has been reorganized and is now under the chairmanship of the Chief Medical Officer and has been strengthened by the addition of all the district medical officers.

The District Boards of Health have also been re-arranged under the chairmanship of the district medical officers.

Two additional Sanitary Inspectors have been appointed.

Concrete drains have been laid down in eight villages and also a large drain in the Oval pasture adjacent to St. John's.

Free dental inspection and treatment of school children has been continued and is a very valuable adjunct to the child welfare of the community.

Disease and mortality.—There were 1,284 births and 650 deaths during the year.

The chief diseases were :—Syphilis 974 cases, pulmonary tuberculosis 30 cases, whooping-cough 378 cases, dysentery 168 cases, malaria 1,024 cases, bronchitis 1,173 cases, influenza 1,008 cases.

Hospitals, etc.—There is a good modern hospital, with 91 beds (capable of more if required). It has an X-ray room. There were 469 males and 593 females admitted during the year. The average duration in hospital was 15 days. The number of major operations was 158 and minor operations 313. There were 20 ophthalmic cases.

Home for the aged and infirm. (Fiennes Institute).—100 beds. 51 males and 54 females were admitted. There were 56 deaths (27 males and 29 females) chiefly from diseases incidental to old age.

Dispensaries.—There are now 14 Government dispensaries in Antigua and one in Barbuda. There are 26 Government district nurses who are also midwives.

There is a quarantine station and, as already mentioned, a leper home and a lunatic asylum, the latter being a Federal institution.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

In 1934, the Health Officer retired and was replaced by a Senior Medical Officer, who is also Medical Officer of Health, paid from local funds.

Infant welfare.—Infant welfare work progresses. Since the movement was started and crêches under the supervision of the District Matron were provided, infant mortality in St. Kitts has decreased from 409·6 per 1,000 living births in 1920, to 229 in 1934. A new crêche and infant welfare centre have been established at Gingerland, Nevis.

Mortality and disease.—There were 1,518 births and 905 deaths in the Presidency in 1934. Stillbirths numbered 102. A considerable epidemic of whooping cough occurred in the town of

Basseterre during the first half of the year, extending to the country districts of St. Kitts and to Nevis later in the year.

Hospitals.—The central hospital, at Basseterre, St. Kitts, has 87 beds and 5 maternity beds. Other hospitals are at Sandy Point, St. Kitts (16 beds), Nevis (between 30 and 40 beds) and Anguilla (8 beds). There are homes for the aged and the infirm at Basseterre (50 beds) and at Nevis (12 beds). The leper home in the Sandy Point district has 52 inmates.

Staff.—The Presidency is divided into 7 medical districts (St. Kitts 4, Nevis 2 and Anguilla 1). There are 3 European nursing sisters in the Presidency, one of whom is District Matron and trains pupil midwives. There are 8 Sanitary Inspectors working under the supervision of the Senior Medical Officer. Dental clinics are held regularly by the Government Dental Officer and the attention to the teeth of the elementary school children should produce results, in the years to come, in the general health of the people. Dispensaries are established in different parts of the medical districts.

Dominica.

The Chief Medical and Health Officer is in general charge of all matters concerned with public health.

Infant welfare.—A crêche is established in Roseau and a special infant welfare centre at Portsmouth, both of these organizations being run by voluntary committees with Government support. In addition, weekly ante-natal and infant welfare clinics are held in connexion with the maternity ward of the Roseau Hospital and are well attended.

Sanitation.—The sanitation of the towns of Roseau and Portsmouth is under the control of the Roseau Town Council and the Portsmouth Town Board respectively; these bodies have their own sanitary officers. The sanitary organization for the rest of the island includes six sanitary inspectors for the more important country districts. Special efforts have been directed against malaria, yaws and ankylostomiasis.

Mortality and disease.—There were 1,563 live births, 93 still-births and 706 deaths during the year. The whooping-cough epidemic, which lasted throughout the year 1933, continued into the first quarter of 1934. Malaria, which is endemic, was again prevalent and accounted for 53 deaths. Deaths from all forms of tuberculosis numbered 62.

Hospitals.—There is a central hospital at Roseau with 102 beds; admissions in 1934 numbered 1,449. Smaller hospitals are maintained at Portsmouth (33 beds), Marigot (6 beds) and Grand Bay (4 beds), with respectively 530, 141 and 78 admissions during the year. At Roseau there is also a home for the aged and infirm with accommodation for about 30 inmates. Eighteen dispensaries are maintained in the four medical districts.

Staff.—There are four district medical officers under the Chief Medical Officer. Six dispensers (including two who are the stewards of the Roseau and Portsmouth Hospitals) assist the medical officers. The training of nurses and midwives is under the supervision of the European Matron of the Roseau Hospital. In addition to the nursing staffs of the hospitals, three nurse-midwives are employed in the districts.

Montserrat.

The general health of the people showed an improvement over the previous year, due to the abundance of fresh foodstuffs and the record cotton crop.

Mortality and disease.—The births numbered 525 in 1934 and the deaths 187. The year was a healthy one and no special epidemics were recorded.

Hospital.—The number of admissions showed an increase on previous years, due, it is felt, to a greater appreciation of hospital treatment.

Infant welfare.—This work and the supervision of the two district nurse-midwives is under the care of the European nursing sister at the hospital. Infant mortality reached the low figure of 121 per thousand living births.

Staff.—There are two medical officers in the Island.

Virgin Islands.

The health of the Presidency remained satisfactory in 1934.

Mortality and disease.—There were 194 births and 87 deaths registered. An epidemic of influenza broke out during the year, but malaria has subsided to a great extent.

Hospital.—Under the care of the European nursing sister the hospital continues to serve the needs of the people. Only four cases of typhoid were under treatment during the year.

Staff.—The medical staff of the Presidency consists of one medical officer, one European nursing sister and one sanitary officer in Tortola and one dispenser at Anegada Island.

V.—HOUSING.

Antigua.

The Housing Scheme, financed originally from the Colonial Development Fund, continues to improve the type of house used by the poorer classes and with it goes improvement in living conditions of the people. The progress of St. Johnston's Village continues. A district post office has been placed in the village and a large building set aside for divine worship, in addition a rural constable and district nurse are resident there. The houses are mainly of standard type: three rooms and a verandah, with a separate latrine and kitchen for each house. The houses are very sanitary and easily disinfected. In addition to the model village, similar houses under the same scheme have been erected on the Antigua land settlement area at Greencastle, at the village of All Saints, and at other places. One of the most valuable aspects of the scheme is that it is proving an encouragement and an incentive to others of the artisan and peasant class to build new houses for themselves, and a much improved type of house is appearing in most parts of the island.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Permission for the continuance of the Housing Scheme, started in 1930 and temporarily suspended pending re-consideration of the type of house to be built, has now been received. The scheme, which has been financied from the Colonial Development Fund, is run on similar lines to that in Antigua. Up to the end of 1934 45 model houses have been constructed at Basseterre and 16 at Sandy Point.

The larger residences and places of business are of two storeys, the lower, generally speaking, of stone and the upper of wood. These buildings are provided with hurricane shutters as the Colony is almost in the centre of the hurricane zone.

Dominica.

No housing scheme is yet in operation in Dominica, nor are there any building societies in existence. The villages, particularly on the leeward coast, are badly in need of such a scheme owing to their being congested and insanitary. Unfortunately the finances of the Presidency do not warrant the matter being taken in hand at the present time. The conditions which have to be complied with in the erection of new houses in the two main towns, Roseau and Portsmouth, have been made more stringent.

Montserrat.

Very little progress was made during 1934 in the concrete housing scheme which is being financed from the Colonial Development Fund, as in most cases the persons of the labouring class who were applicants for houses were unable to furnish the Government with title deeds for their lands, it being a condition precedent to the grant of an application that the lands shall be conveyed free of incumbrance to the Government. Steps have now been taken to provide the applicants with certificates of title and to add the expense to the cost of the house. Difficulties are, however, still being experienced owing, in many cases, to the defective title of the applicants to the lands on which they propose to build the houses.

Virgin Islands.

The housing conditions of the people are much better than those in the other Presidencies. The average house of the peasant measures about 20 ft. by 15 ft. and is surrounded by an acre or more of arable land. The present living conditions seem admirably suited to the population which consists almost entirely of small landowners and fishermen. Practically all the houses are owned by the occupiers and the general condition of the houses may be described as clean and sanitary.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Sugar, cotton, coconuts, oranges, grapefruit, bananas, cocoa and table vegetables are the chief products of the Colony. The following table summarises the principal exports of local produce of the whole colony for the year 1934 compared with the previous year :—

		1933.		*1934.*	
		Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £
Avocado pears ...	... crates	2,946	567	4,344	838
Bananas	bunches	22,304	889	37,850	3,253
Bay oil...	lb.	21,774	3,630	14,988	2,206
Cattle	...	1,554	5,124	1,734	5,043
Cocoa	lb.	358,112	2,550	324,333	2,983
Coconuts	No.	199,710	647	209,685	479
Copra	lb.	105,237	882	247,508	836
Cotton	lb.	696,581	29,698	977,868	50,009
Cotton seed	tons	216	723	400	1,544
Grapefruit	... crates	5,981	2,684	3,167	1,403
Lime-juice, raw	gals.	95,650	6,677	96,803	5,363
Lime oil, distilled	lb.	10,022	11,162	6,288	6,418
Lime oil, ecuelled	lb.	617	677	245	393
Limes, green	brls.	13,547	5,379	7,561	8,357
Mangoes	brls.	6,872	931	4,084	1,225
Molasses	gal.	1,150,981	3,981	1,781,459	4,542
Onions	lb.	52,206	343	66,495	403
Oranges ...	... crates & brls.	7,255	3,268	7,192	4,324
Rum	gal.	24,660	3,811	17,521	2,281
Salt	tons	34	9	1,302	2,056
Sugar	tons	47,042	473,920	48,997	456,531
Tamarinds	brls.	495	427	152	93
Tobacco (leaf)	lb.	—	—	12,800	1,031
Tomatoes	... crates	9,555	1,533	8,847	1,455

Antigua.

There are two modern sugar factories, one at Gunthorpes, owned by the Antigua Sugar Factory Company (Henckel, Dubuisson and Company), and one at Bendals owned by the South Western Estates Company. The capacity of the former is approximately 22,000 tons and that of the latter 4,000 tons. There were 20,677 tons of crystal sugar, of approximately 96° polarization, manufactured during 1934, as well as a small quantity of muscovado sugar at a minor factory. (The Antigua Sugar Factory is a 14-roller mill and can make a ton of sugar from less than 8 tons of cane.) The average yield of cane per acre was 20 tons. There were also 841,000 gallons of molasses made. The sugar is sold either to England or to Canada to be refined. The gyrotiller plough, bought for £6,000 in 1931 by the Antigua Sugar Factory, with some assistance from the Colonial Development Fund, continues to function satisfactorily. The Antigua Sugar Factory owns about 38 miles of 2½ ft.-gauge and the Bendals Factory about 8 miles of 2 ft.-gauge railway, to bring in the canes from the estates over the island. Estates vary between 80 and 400 acres (reaping area). Both factories paid 14s. a ton of cane in 1934. The approximate cost of production per ton of sugar is fairly constant as regards the manufacturing expenditure, which has been brought down by the Antigua Sugar Factory to about £2 15s. 2d., but with regard to the growing of the cane the cost varies considerably, and in a year of poor cane-yields the planting costs will rise to a very much higher figure than in a year when the yield per acre is high.

The activities of the Agricultural Department continue to increase. An elaborate series of experiments in connexion with sugar cane investigation was commenced in 1934, and an agricultural assistant, whose office had been in temporary abeyance, was appointed early in the year. Work on the Greencastle Experimental Station and the Land Settlement Scheme continues and progresses. From the Experimental Station the following were distributed :—

> Cane cuttings, 74,811 ; onion seedlings, 42,650 ; tomato seedlings, 5,874 ; in addition to smaller quantities of other plants and seeds.

The Entomologist is now stationed at St. Lucia, but he makes periodic visits to this Presidency to further the introduction of the *Lyxophaga Diatraea* for the purpose of reducing the moth borer in sugar cane.

The total value of the minor products of the Presidency in 1934 was approximately £1,500. No tomatoes were shipped and the cotton crop amounted to only 9,600 lb. of lint. The bulk of the cotton crop is grown by the peasants and is purchased on a co-operative basis by a central ginnery. A first payment is made on the nominal prices ruling in England and ultimately 75 per cent. of the profits are paid over as a bonus.

Efforts are being made to encourage the minor industries particularly fruit ; and budded citrus, grafted mangoes, and budded avocado pears continue to be distributed from the Government Nursery. The acreage under sugar cane in 1934 was 12,532, and under other crops 1,377.

The Land Settlement Scheme is being extended, and in 1934 Jonas Estate, approximately 260 acres, was purchased. Already 42 lots have been taken up and about 45 acres of cane will be reaped in 1935.

Officers of the Agricultural Department pay constant visits to the peasants' holdings, and lectures are given on practical agriculture not only to the peasants but also to the elementary school teachers, who in turn pass it on to the children in the schools. By this means it is hoped to instil in early life the rudiments of agricultural training into the labouring population. The gyrotiller plough is hired out by the Antigua Sugar Factory to the peasants at £2 an acre.

The following table shows the relative exports of the principal products of Antigua over a period of five years :—

	1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
Sugar (ton)	18,267	4,977	19,168	23,875	20,677
,, (value) ... ... £	189,429	48,197	182,116	234,920	196,534
,, acreage of cane reaped ...	9,155	7,865	7,936	9,450	9,686
Molasses (gal.)	40,000	33,758	757,701	520,232	808,459
,, (value) ... ... £	1,482	715	12,782	1,084	2,515
Cotton (lb.)	72,497	131,700	22,500	8,400	9,600
,, (value) ... ... £	5,190	6,585	936	420	480
Cotton seed (ton)	20	60	—	—	—
,, ,, (value) ... £	75	360	—	—	—
Lime juice, raw (gal.)	—	—	1,280	9,189	3,712
,, ,, ,, (value) £	—	—	75	557	142
Lime juice, concentrated (gal.)	300	—	—	—	—
,, ,, ,, (value) £	32	—	—	—	—
Lime oil, distilled (lb.) ...	288	432	1,008	720	—
,, ,, ,, (value) £	416	438	3,808	874	—
Limes, fresh (barrels)	214	51	173	85	97
,, ,, (value) ... £	214	47	144	22	85
Tomatoes (crates of 20 lb.) ...	—	365	815	13	—
,, (value) ... £	—	130	196	3	—
Onions (crates of 50 lb.) ...	371	—	1,805	26	20
(value) ... ... £	185	—	574	8	6
Tamarinds (barrels)	1,641	397	520	495	152
,, (value) ... £	1,641	348	456	427	93
Coconuts	—	—	5,800	33,400	400
,, (value) ... £	—	—	36	135	2

St. Kitts-Nevis.

There is one central modern sugar factory, owned by the Basseterre Sugar Factory Company (Henckel, Dubuisson Co.), of an original capacity of approximately 20,000 tons, which has since been considerably increased. It is connected to the various sugar estates by a narrow-gauge railway encircling the island. 28,320 tons of crystal sugar, a record for the island, of approximately 96 degrees polarization, were made from 200,000 tons of canes reaped from about 7,630 acres, an average yield of over 26 tons to the acre.

Recently the planters have made serious efforts to increase the yields of cane by the introduction of parasites for the control of insect pests, and by an extended use of artificial fertilizers.

All estates have a certain number of contract labourers, who live in estate houses and receive free medical attention and a free plot of land for growing ground provisions and vegetables.

In Nevis, the area under sugar cane was increased and 4,139 tons of canes were sold to the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory. Small quantities of muscovado sugar and fancy molasses were manufactured.

1,133 acres were planted with cotton in 1934 and 141,687 lb. of lint produced.

There are Government agricultural instructors in Nevis and Anguilla, who pay frequent visits to peasants' holdings and endeavour to improve their methods of agriculture.

Much progress has been made with the land settlement schemes in Nevis and Anguilla.

The following table shows the relative exports of the principal products of St. Kitts-Nevis over a period of five years :—

		1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
Sugar (tons)		17,637	12,021	19,969	22,588	28,320
„ (value)	£	178,654	110,234	197,466	234,747	260,000
Molasses (gal.)		9,495	589,700	459,404	630,749	973,000
„ (value)	£	—	5,759	2,971	2,897	2,027
Cotton (lb.)		778,761	245,500	85,018	88,550	141,687
„ (value)	£	65,484	12,364	4,250	4,701	8,200
Cotton Seed (tons)		364	388	35	—	60
„ „ (value) ...	£	1,837	1,363	290	—	250
Coconuts		16,144	43,900	78,770	56,953	105,646
„ (value) ...	£	100	256	445	289	228
Tomatoes (lb.)		—	151,900	53,000	28,637	12,000
„ (value) ...	£	—	1,352	524	221	105
Salt (tons)		1,492	2,316	759	34	1,302
„ (value)	£	2,984	2,505	655	9	2,056

Dominica.

For many years the cultivation of the lime fruit was, except for a certain amount of cocoa, almost the sole industry of Dominica. Lime products, estimated in the equivalent of barrels of limes, reached their zenith in 1921 with 500,000 barrels, but since then several hurricanes and two diseases (withertip and red root) have played havoc with the trees. On the top of all this, citrate of lime is now being made synthetically and Sicilian lemon juice has largely taken the place of Dominican lime-juice. Imperial grants-in-aid and agricultural loans have been made to resuscitate the industry. The Agricultural Department and the planters have made heroic efforts in budding thousands of lime trees on to sour orange stock, the results of which are expected to withstand hurricane and disease, but it is doubtful whether the old good prices for lime products will ever return. Attention in recent years has been much turned to other citrus fruits and a useful export trade is developing. All fruit, except some going to the United States of America, has to pass through a central Government Marketing Depot, where it is cleaned, graded, packed, and marked by means of very modern machinery. There is also a good cold-storage plant attached.

Though there are a few large estates, most of the planting in Dominica is carried out on small peasant holdings. A useful experimental station has been established on the Copt Hall Estate and much good agricultural work is also done in a portion of the famous Dominica Botanical Gardens.

While the cultivation of lime fruit still continues to be one of the principal industries of the Presidency, considerable impetus has been given to the planting of bananas by the formation of a Banana

Growers' Association, and a five years' contract has been entered into by the Association and a Canadian Fruit Company. Prior to 1934 such exports of bananas as were effected were largely confined to other West Indian Islands and were on a negligible scale, but a rapid rise followed the events recorded above, and at the close of the year had resulted in shipments of 37,850 bunches valued at £3,253 (f.o.b.). As regards limes, unfavourable weather considerably retarded the output but the demand for raw lime-juice, particularly in the United States of America, has proved encouraging. Revival in the cultivation of tobacco and vanilla is also now possible owing, on the one hand, to the demand for cheap cigars, and on the other to a levelling up of prices between the natural and synthetic products. Orange and grapefruit production has also increased, but is faced with acute competition.

The following table shows the relative exports of the principal products of Dominica over a period of five years :—

		1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
Limes, total crop estimated as " barrels "	...	114,000	68,000	48,000	36,000	27,000
Limes, green or fresh (barrels)		17,461	10,867	8,394	4,391	3,790
,, ,, ,, (value)	£	26,191	13,584	10,418	4,033	4,598
Lime juice, raw (gal.)	...	195,994	93,255	62,545	37,770	74,908
,, ,, ,, (value)...	£	9,800	3,886	2,911	1,889	4,523
Lime juice, concentrated (gal.)		45,832	3,211	5,561	35,467	7,462
,, ,, ,, (value)	£	5,729	241	193	1,817	273
Lime oil, distilled (lb.)	...	25,667	14,446	11,218	9,302	6,288
,, ,, ,, (value)	£	34,664	21,668	13,271	10,288	6,418
Lime oil, ecuelled (lb.)	...	1,551	2,158	617	320	245
,, ,, ,, (value)	£	4,216	4,611	677	353	393
Bay oil (lb.)	...	15,948	17,783	20,915	21,774	14,988
,, ,, (value)	£	3,987	4,447	3,683	3,630	2,206
Oranges (crates and barrels)	...	524	3,214	6,583	7,255	7,192
,, (value)	£	424	1,971	2,236	3,268	4,324
Grapefruit (crates) ...	...	917	1,531	3,954	5,981	3,167
,, (value) ...	£	458	767	1,937	2,684	1,403
Avocado Pears (crates) ...	...	1,090	670	1,254	2,946	4,344
,, ,, (value) ...	£	454	179	276	567	838
Mangoes (crates) ...	...	3,363	4,006	6,743	6,872	4,084
,, (value)	£	1,402	995	1,496	931	1,225
Cocoa (lb.)	...	409,536	218,773	269,099	358,112	324,333
,, (value)	£	6,826	1,595	1,837	2,550	2,983
Coconuts	...	96,802	50,355	116,840	109,357	103,639
,, (value) ...	£	404	344	384	223	249
Copra (lb.)	...	113,831	45,526	107,107	105,237	247,508
,, (value)	£	1,067	351	1,112	882	836
Rum (gal.)	...	68	1,380	11,520	24,660	17,521
,, (value)	£	16	252	1,587	3,811	2,281
Vanilla (lb.)	...	7,678	114	1,974	21	797
,, (value)	£	2,112	29	395	2	109
Bananas (bunches) ...	...	2,453	1,556	9,019	22,304	37,850
,, (value) ...	£	368	154	422	889	3,253
Hardwood (ft.)	...	—	—	—	65,193	108,466
,, (value)	£	—	—	—	405	965
Tobacco Leaf (lb.) ...	...	—	—	—	1,834	12,800
,, (value)	£	—	—	—	144	1,031

Montserrat.

In spite of the low rainfall during 1934 a record crop of cotton was produced. The production from 3,106 acres was 826,581 lb. of lint (266 lb. of lint per acre). An improved price, ranging between 1s. 1½d. and 1s. 2½d. was obtained for lint shipped to the United Kingdom and the continent of Europe.

The citrus crops suffered from the dry weather but green limes were exported in greater quantities.

It is hoped that, after years of uncertainty, the vegetable trade has been re-established on a sound and lasting basis. Weather and market conditions rendered this trade very profitable. Montserrat is essentially an island of peasant holders, 94 per cent. of the landowners having less than 10 acres each. There are only 38 owners having more than 100 acres each.

The following table shows the relative export of the principal products of Monserrat during the past five years :—

		1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
Cotton (lb.)		709,061	400,389	187,131	599,631	826,581
,, (value)	£	53,009	24,249	12,939	24,577	41,329
,, acreage planted		—	3,400	1,500	2,187	3,106
Cotton seed (tons)		208	263	141	216	340
,, ,, (value) ...	£	1,024	919	437	723	1,294
Limes, green or fresh (barrels)		—	292	580	9,071	3,674
,, ,, ,, (value)	£	—	148	625	1,324	3,674
Lime juice, raw (gal.)		—	22,840	29,134	48,691	18,183
,, ,, ,, (value)	£	—	1,091	1,453	4,231	698
Tomatoes (crates of 20 lb.) ...		19,319	16,966	22,764	8,110	8,097
,, ,, ,, (value)	£	3,397	2,832	—	1,309	1,350
Onions (lb.)		72,280	21,600	41,564	50,906	65,495
,, (value)	£	400	179	300	335	397

Virgin Islands.

A certain amount of sugar is produced, and either consumed or converted into rum for local consumption. Cotton was grown a few years ago, but with the fall in prices interest ceased, and the pink boll worm is now too prevalent to hope for much result. A tobacco industry was started about ten years ago and a fair quality of local cigars was produced, but the prices proved unremunerative and the industry ceased. Until a few years ago the people of the British Virgin Islands found a useful market for their cattle and vegetable produce in St. Thomas, where an American Naval Station was established, but on this being removed, and on partial restrictions being placed against the importation of British livestock, trade with that island has become stagnant, and the British Virgin islanders can now only find a scanty livelihood in producing a few vegetables, cattle and goats for export to the remoter islands. They also do a certain amount of fishing. Weather conditions, too, are against them, as the rainfall is normally not large and, these small islands being mountainous, any rain that falls runs off too rapidly into the sea.

Practically all the land is peasant-owned.

LIVESTOCK OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Although mechanical ploughs are being found very suitable for the hard clay soils of Antigua, cattle will be for a long time needed as plough and draught animals in that island and also in St. Kitts-Nevis and Dominica. In the former island a mixed strain with imported Mysore or zebu blood has been found very useful. Horses are principally in use by the planters and overseers for riding about the estates. Mules are to a certain extent used for ploughing in both St. Kitts and Antigua. Donkeys are largely the means of transport of the labouring classes. Sheep are only required for the meat markets, and are usually of poor quality. Goats, pigs, and poultry are bred in large quantities for food purposes by the labouring classes.

In Antigua and St. Kitts there are qualified Government veterinary surgeons, who inspect all livestock on importation, examine market animals before and after slaughter, and periodically examine milking cattle. They also look after the health of all horses and mules belonging to the Government. They are allowed private practice among the estates of the island.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The total values of the imports and exports of the Colony for the past five years have been as follows :—

	1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports from United Kingdom	237,911	210,508	246,592	269,129	245,654
,, ,, Canada	184,860	138,943	107,346	109,089	112,635
,, ,, Rest of Empire ...	116,323	96,280	87,966	93,473	86,203
,, ,, United States of America.	175,699	132,584	80,797	75,022	79,973
,, ,, Other foreign countries.	43,105	40,789	28,787	54,780	53,602
Total ...	757,898	619,104	551,488	601,493	578,067
Exports to United Kingdom ...	239,200	81,990	296,062	387,345	379,628
,, ,, Canada	271,796	128,560	114,047	108,997	119,170
,, ,, Rest of Empire ...	23,837	25,410	26,076	21,265	36,200
,, ,, United States of America.	66,050	33,157	33,452	20,321	16,957
,, ,, Other foreign countries.	11,971	17,125	13,626	21,688	25,221
Total	612,854	286,242	483,263	559,616	577,176
Percentage of value of exported sugar to total exports.	60	58	82	81	84

From the above it will be seen that sugar forms the bulk of the Colony's exports, and that any lowering of the value of sugar exports, due to hurricane, drought, or low prices, is at once reflected not only in the total export trade but automatically in the import trade, because there is less money in circulation. 1931 was a particularly bad year due to drought and, of course, low prices, and in consequence there was less money to spend in 1932, but there has been a decided improvement since. The percentages of imports are as follows, to the nearest unit :—

	1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
United Kingdom	31	34	45	44	44
Canada	24	22	19	18	20
Rest of the Empire	15	15	16	16	15
United States of America ...	23	21	15	12	13
Other foreign countries	6	7	5	10	10

The fall in imports from the United States of America and the corresponding increase in imports from the United Kingdom is very satisfactory from the Imperial point of view, but owing to the lesser rate of import duty the revenues of the Colony have suffered. The trade with the United Kingdom in motor-cars, shoes, groceries, cotton, and fancy goods might be still further developed, but not by correspondence. Visits of commercial travellers with samples are very necessary.

The value of the total trade of the Colony as well as that of the imports and exports is shown in the following table :—

Year.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Total Trade.*
	£	£	£
1930	757,898	612,854	1,370,752
1931	619,104	286,242	905,346
1932	551,488	483,263	1,034,751
1933	601,493	559,616	1,161,109
1934	578,067	577,176	1,155,243

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The day wages of field labourers vary from 1s. to 2s. for men and 6d. to 10d. for women, with about 3s. 6d. to 6s. for artizans. The wages of domestic servants are from [illegible]s. to 12s. a week. Most of the field work on the estates is done by the task, and in the crop season labourers frequently perform two tasks a day, earning from 16s. to 20s. a week. In addition to this they are provided with free medical attendance, houses, and land for planting provisions.

For office workers and professional men the cost of living is about the same as in the country districts of England. The rent of bungalows or small houses is about £40 to £60 a year. The hotels, which are more like small boarding houses, charge about 12s. 6d. a day. The average prices of foodstuffs per lb. are :—bread 4d., flour 2½d., fish 4d., beef 8d., and milk 4d. per qt.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE.

Education.

Educational facilities in the Colony are abundant (122 schools) and, on the whole, good. Elementary or primary schools (all free and undenominational) are maintained by Government throughout Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica, and are State-aided in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands. There is an advisory Board of Education in each Presidency. A sum of £26,808 was provided for education in 1934. Pupil teachers are trained locally for three years, and then selected ones are awarded studentships for higher training at the Rawle Training Institute in Barbados for men, or the Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College at Antigua for women.

Antigua.

The Boys' Grammar School, founded in 1884, is open to all races and denominations, but is the property of the Anglican diocese of Antigua. There are about 65 boys. The teaching staff consists of a headmaster and four assistants. The Government subsidy in 1934 was £500, in part return for which seven free Government scholarships of £12 a year are given.

The Girls' High School, founded 1886, is open to all races and denominations, and has about 80 pupils, some 20 being boarders. The teaching is arranged for by a headmistress, a deputy, and five assistant mistresses, resident at the school. The Government subsidy in 1934 was £200, in part return for which there are five free Government scholarships.

The T. O. Robinson Memorial School, founded in 1898, is open to all races and denominations and has about 80 pupils, boys and girls. Miss Robinson, the proprietress, is aided by a teaching staff, and all the usual facilities for instruction and recreation are afforded. There is a School Board, and there is a Government subsidy of £90 a year.

In Antigua there are 20 Government elementary or primary schools and one small grant-aided private one; also at Barbuda there is a primary school managed by the Anglican authorities and receiving a Government grant of £90 per annum. There is at St. John's a small night-school, held in a Government school-building, under the auspices of Toc H.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The St. Kitts-Nevis Grammar School is a Government school, and has about 40 pupils. In 1934 £898 was allocated for salaries of staff and £212 for equipment and scholarships.

The Girls' High School is maintained in a Government building, and a subsidy on a sliding scale is paid to the headmistress, Miss Pickard. There is also a Convent School managed by the Order of Missionary Canonesses of St. Augustine.

In Nevis there is a secondary school, for boys and girls, owned by Miss Bridgewater to whom a Government subsidy of £75 is paid.

There are 16 Government primary schools in St. Kitts, 10 in Nevis, and 5 in Anguilla. The number of children enrolled in these is 7,041.

Dominica.

There is a Government Grammar School for boys, with 39 pupils. A cheap private school, called St. Mary's Academy, with 38 boys, was also started in 1932. The Convent School for girls, managed by the Order of the Faithful Virgin, has 84 pupils. There is also a Wesley High School for girls, with 17 pupils. The Government maintains 28 primary schools, with a total enrolment of 6,403 pupils. Agricultural instruction is a useful feature in most of the Government schools of the Colony, but especially so in Dominica.

There are night-schools at Roseau and Portsmouth, which are doing very good work.

Montserrat.

The Grammar School for boys is a Government institution, maintained at a cost of some £700 per annum. There is also a small secondary school for girls, which receives a Government grant of £100 per annum. There are twelve primary schools grant-aided.

Virgin Islands.

1,230 children are enrolled in the primary schools, all denominational and Government-aided. There are no secondary schools.

Welfare.

A small Reformatory School exists at Antigua for about 20 boys. Reference has already been made in the chapter on the health of the Colony to homes for the aged and infirm and to the crêche system in the various Presidencies. A number of Mutual Friendly Societies exist with funds for sickness and burials, organized either in conjunction with the different churches or of an undenominational character.

There are Lodges of Freemasons in most of the Presidencies.

The principal religious denominations in the Colony are the Anglican, Wesleyan, Moravian Mission, Roman Catholic (very numerous in Dominica), and some minor sects of American origin. The Salvation Army has also rendered useful service of a general nature for some years past. The Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements have taken a firm hold in recent years and there are now about 1,000 of the former and 400 of the latter in the Colony. The Toc. H. Association has been established in Antigua, the first branch in the West Indies.

Recreation.

Forms of recreation are plentiful for all classes. Sea-bathing in the warm blue-green water off the palm-fringed white beaches of Antigua and Anguilla is as good as can be found anywhere in the world; and in most of the other islands is better than at a great many much advertised resorts. Sailing and fishing are indulged in to a limited extent. Cricket is a sport that appeals to popular enthusiasm throughout the islands, and the inter-Presidential annual tournament always creates the greatest excitement. Tennis clubs exist in all the Presidencies, and it can be played on grass courts all the year round. Association football has become popular in recent years during the winter months. There is a 9-hole golf course at Antigua.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Sea.

The principal islands of the Colony are served by the following steamship companies:—

Canadian National.—From Canada.
Ocean Dominion.—From Canada.
Bermuda and West Indies (Furness Withy).—From New York.
American Caribbean Line.—From New York.
Harrison Line.—From England.
Compagnie Générale Transatlantique.—From Havre.

Smaller steamships of the Dutch line also call at St. Kitts, and schooners and sloops make irregular calls at most of the islands. H.M. ships, especially from the American and West Indies Station (headquarters, Bermuda), occasionally spend a few days among the islands, particularly in the winter months. During 1934, 1,265 British steamships, of a total tonnage of 5,452,844 tons, and 906 foreign steamships, of a total tonnage of 1,547,312 tons, entered and cleared the ports of the Colony.

Air.

The branch of Pan-American Air-ways that flies between Miami and Trinidad calls regularly for passengers and mails on Wednesdays and Fridays at Antigua, at which an over-night stop is made on the south-bound journey.

Roads.

In Antigua there are 166 miles of roads (65 miles being main roads) traversed by motors, carriages, ox waggons, horses, and donkeys; the latter, pannier-carrying, being a feature of peasant transport for produce. There are also motor-omnibus companies in Antigua, as there are in most of the other islands. In St. Kitts there is a main road 30 miles in length encircling the island. In Nevis there is a similar encircling road 18 miles in length. Anguilla has about 20 miles of especially good roads, but there are only about a dozen cars in the island. Dominica roads are a most difficult problem owing to the mountains and rivers and frequent landslides. There are now about 68 miles of motor roads of moderate quality. A launch service takes the place of an impassable road between Roseau and Portsmouth. Montserrat has 68 miles of roads, but not more than about half this distance is really suitable for motor traffic. The Virgin Islands have no motor roads, all land traffic being by horseback or donkey-back.

As mentioned in Chapter VI, there are narrow-gauge railways in Antigua and St. Kitts, but these are only for sugar transport.

Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones.

There are central Post Offices at St. John's, Basseterre, Roseau, Plymouth and Road Town; and 17 sub-offices in Antigua, 10 in St. Kitts-Nevis, 13 in Dominica, 4 in Montserrat, and 4 in the Virgin Islands. There is an annual overseas traffic of about two million letters and postal packages.

The telephone service throughout the islands is of the metallic earth system. In addition to a central exchange in each of the larger islands there are 2 sub-exchanges and 570 miles of telephone in Antigua; 3 sub-exchanges and 334 miles of telephone in St. Kitts-Nevis; 5 sub-exchanges and 590 miles of telephone in Dominica; and 2 sub-exchanges and 150 miles of telephone in Montserrat. There are also a few miles of telephone service in Anguilla.

The wireless telegraph system (owned by Cable and Wireless, Ltd.), is established at Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica, and a similar one, owned by the Government but operated by the Company in Montserrat.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

British currency is legal tender throughout the Colony, but in the Virgin Islands, where there is no bank and where practically all trade is done with St. Thomas, either American or Danish currency circulates along with British. Government accounts are kept in all the Presidencies in sterling, but in the banks and in many commercial houses the dollar system is used at a standard rate of $4.80 to the £. Barclay's Bank (D.C.O.) has branches at Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica. The Royal Bank of Canada has branches at Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat. These banks pay a Government stamp duty of £62 10s. 0d. per annum each in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis, £25 in Dominica and £15 in Montserrat. Each has a note issue of $5 notes, to the amount of between $30,000 and $50,000 in circulation. They each have a Savings Bank section, which was paying 2½ per cent. interest on deposits in 1934. Government Savings Banks also operate in the principal islands. Amounts to the credit of depositors on which interest is paid at 2½ per cent., on the last day of each of the last five financial years were as follows :—

Government Savings Banks.

	31*st* *March,* *1931.*	31*st* *December,* *1931.*	31*st* *December,* *1932.*	31*st* *December,* *1933.*	31*st* *December,* *1934.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	16,461	15,341	16,371	16,534	16,968
St. Kitts-Nevis	4,063	4,003	4,077	3,925	4,115
Dominica	8,751	6,585	5,735	5,409	5,056
Montserrat	661	605	565	724	627
Virgin Islands	1,630	1,615	2,005	1,756	1,296
Total for the Colony	£31,566	28,149	28,753	28,348	28,062

The falling off in deposits since 1931 is partly due to competition from the private banks and partly to the general financial depression. There are no Agricultural Banks, except a small privately-managed one in the Virgin Islands.

Weights and Measures.

Weights and measures are standard Imperial and are periodically examined by Government inspectors.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Colony.

Owing to the general financial depression, practically no extraordinary public works from local funds were undertaken in the Colony during 1934, and the public works recurrent expenditure was kept at a minimum. Certain special public works were, however, continued with funds provided by the Colonial Development Fund, and usually under the supervision of special officers.

Antigua.

Staff.—A Superintendent of Public Works is assisted by two road overseers and a clerk and storekeeper. The Superintendent is also Superintendent of the Asylum and Chairman of the City Commissioners.

Works undertaken during the year consisted of the usual maintenance of Government buildings, wharves, waterworks and roads. In addition, the Bryson's Pier was reconstructed and work was started on the new Government Petroleum Warehouse.

Colonial Development Fund works.—Plans for the completion of the Water scheme were submitted during the year and assistance was made available from the Colonial Development Fund at the end of November, 1934.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Staff.—A Surveyor of Works (who is also Superintendent of telephones), assisted by a clerk, and by an executive officer in

Nevis, constitute the principal staff in this Presidency. Nothing much beyond ordinary maintenance work was possible during the year. The improvement in the streets of Basseterre continues to be effected by oiling the surface and making concrete drains and pavements.

Colonial Development Fund works.—The Nevis Land Settlement Scheme continues to make progress.

Dominica.

Staff.—A Colonial Engineer, assisted by two road overseers, and an electrician comprise the senior public works staff here.

Works undertaken.—Extensions and improvements in the Roseau electric light system were carried out.

Colonial Development Fund works.—Work continued on the Portsmouth-Hatton Garden Road, estimated to cost £36,000.

Montserrat.

Staff.—An Inspector of Works and Roads works under the general supervision of the Commissioner, and is assisted by a clerk and storekeeper. He is also in charge of the telephone system. Nothing beyond ordinary maintenance was possible during the year.

Colonial Development Fund works.—The extension of the water supply to country villages and the laying of concrete drains in the villages have greatly improved the conditions of life of the labouring and peasant population.

Virgin Islands.

The Commissioner supervises any public works. The shed covering the Public Market was remade and a long-wanted bridge over the Ghaut at Baughers Bay was constructed.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The Superior Courts of the Colony are presided over by the Chief Justice or a Puisne Judge. Circuit Courts, with a jury of nine, are held three times a year each at Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat, and, as occasion requires, at Tortola. The Attorney-General or the Crown Attorneys have the function of a Grand Jury. A Court of Summary Jurisdiction, without a jury, for civil cases where less than £50 is involved, is held monthly in Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica, and the Virgin Islands, on alternate months in Montserrat, and quarterly in Anguilla. The Commissioners of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands act as Deputy Judges for this purpose. Appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the West Indian Court of Appeal, and from the Summary Courts to the Supreme Court. Magistrates in each Presidency deal with minor cases. In Antigua there are two Magistrates (one being for Barbuda), in St. Kitts-Nevis four, in Dominica three, and in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands one each (the Commissioners). The principal Magistrate in St. Kitts and Dominica is also the Crown

Attorney. Appeals from the Magistrates' Courts go to a Judge of the Supreme Court, and in further appeal to the Full Court, which is held twice a year in Antigua and consists of the Chief Justice and one or two Puisne Judges. The time for the payment of fines may be deferred, or they may be paid in instalments.

In each Presidency there are Justices of the Peace, but with very limited powers. Any two may act for a Magistrate, if the latter is an interested party. First offenders are frequently bound over and the assistance of one of the clergy invoked to help the person. Juvenile offenders are usually dealt with at a separate hour of the Court or else in the Magistrate's room.

The following table shows the numbers of persons convicted in the Summary and Supreme Courts of the Colony during 1934 :—

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Mont-serrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*	*Total.*
Magistrates' Courts ...	3,048	2,815	1,792	1,396	55	9,106
Supreme Court ...	16	32	22	5	—	75

The total number of cases heard and of persons convicted of various crimes in the Colony over a period of five years is as follows :—

	1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
Magistrates' Courts (cases heard)	11,798	11,723	11,443	12,444	12,685
Magistrates' Courts (convictions)	8,142	8,064	7,697	8,823	9,106
Supreme Court (convictions) ...	69	105	86	44	84

The following table shows (*a*) the number of offences reported to the Police or the Magistrates, and (*b*) the number dealt with in 1934 as compared with 1933 in all the Presidencies.

Total number of reported cases divided as under.

Total number of offences reported.			*Offences against the person, including Homicide.*	*Praedial Larceny.*	*Offences against Property other than Praedial.*	*Other Offences.*
Antigua ...	1933	4,299	1,048	64	99	3,088
	1934	4,438	813	111	130	3,384
St. Kitts-Nevis.	1933	3,616	686	342	165	2,423
	1934	3,809	720	159	262	2,668
Dominica	1933	2,478	609	71	184	1,614
	1934	2,383	476	150	197	1,560
Montserrat	1933	1,828	240	126	94	1,368
	1934	1,956	191	178	29	1,558
Virgin Islands.	1933	105	11	—	6	88
	1934	99	32	5	—	62
Totals	1933	12,326	2,594	603	548	8,581
	1934	12,685	2,232	603	618	9,232

Police.

The Police Force is a Federal one and consists of two Inspectors, four Sub-Inspectors, and 146 N.C.Os. and men, all under the command of a Chief Inspector who has his headquarters at Antigua, where the junior Sub-Inspector is also normally stationed for training. An Inspector and a Sub-Inspector are usually stationed in Dominica, and the same in St. Kitts-Nevis. In Montserrat there is a Sub-Inspector. The Chief Inspector of Police is also Commandant of the Defence Forces of the Colony, and the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors hold rank therein as Captains and Lieutenants respectively.

The period of first enlistment and re-engagement for N.C.Os. and men is three years, and during 1934 forty N.C.Os. and men re-engaged for further terms of three years. All men take part in musketry training and ambulance work in addition to their ordinary police duties. There are also 347 local constables enrolled, who can be called upon when required for extra assistance in the country districts.

Prisons.

The central prison for the Colony is at St. John's, Antigua, and is under the charge of the Chief Keeper of Prisons (a retired Naval Commander). It has accommodation for 128 males and 47 females, and is staffed by a head warder, a matron, 9 warders and one wardress. £1,019 was expended on personal emoluments during the year. Instruction is given to the male prisoners in carpentry, tin-smithing, baking, and to the females in laundry and sewing. £116 was expended on supplies for the workshop during the year, and £143 was received for articles sold. Elementary education is voluntarily given to some of the more illiterate prisoners by certain members of the Toc H. Association, and the Prison Chaplain gives instruction in religion. Prisoners are also employed within the prison on stone-breaking, cleaning, etc., and certain of the male prisoners outside on road-work, in the Botanic gardens, pauper cemetery, and other public institutions. The prison bakery made over 30,000 lb. of bread during the year, supplying both the Prison and the Reformatory Training School.

134 males and 32 females were committed during the year, 12 males and 2 females coming from other Presidencies. The daily average was 45 males and 5 females. One prisoner escaped during the year, but was recaptured after a few hours. There are 72 individual cells for males and 20 for females; and 7 association cells to hold 5 each for males, and 3 to hold 3 each for females. There is an average of 1,370 cubic feet of cell space per prisoner. There is also an infirmary on the male side to hold 9 and another on the female side to hold 3. The Prison Medical Officer pays daily visits. Prisoners who are seriously ill are treated under suitable precautions at the island hospital. There are 11 Visiting

Justices to the Prison, who hold periodical meetings there to enquire into complaints and to consider questions of prison discipline. The boys' Reformatory School has already been referred to in the chapter on Education.

Numbers of male prisoners.
Daily average in Prisons of the Colony for five years.

	1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
Antigua (Central Prison)	79	97	79	51	24
St. Kitts-Nevis	20	26	27	41	48
Dominica	24	25	20	36	49
Montserrat	7	7	8	10	8
Virgin Islands	—	—	—	—	—
Total	130	155	134	138	129

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The prison is at Basseterre and consists of a group of stone buildings surrounded by a 14 ft. wall. On the male side there are 16 cells of 18 ft. by 10 ft. each, and on the female side 10 cells of about the same size. The average cubic foot space per prisoner is 1,418 ft.

281 males and 109 females were committed during the year, mostly on short sentences. The staff consisted of a Keeper and 6 male warders and a matron and a wardress at a cost of £553. Prisoners are taught and employed in the same manner as at Antigua, and sick prisoners are dealt with in similar fashion.

Dominica.

The prison is at Roseau, and consists of a group of stone buildings enclosed by a high stone wall. There are 20 cells for males and 8 for females, with an average cubic space per prisoner of 1,452 ft.

319 males and 141 females were committed during the year, mostly on short sentences. The staff consisted of a keeper, 6 male warders, a matron, and one wardress, at a cost of £608. Prisoners are taught and employed in the same manner as at Antigua, and sick prisoners are dealt with in similar fashion. There were three escapes during the year and one prisoner died at the Roseau Hospital.

Montserrat.

The prison at Plymouth is stone-built, small but sufficient for requirements. There are 8 cells for males and 3 for females, with an average cubic space per prisoner of 1,266 ft. 114 males and 42 females were committed during the year. The staff consisted of a keeper, a male warder, and a matron, at a cost of £157. Male prisoners with sentences over six months and females with sentences of over two months are transferred to the Antigua Prison.

Virgin Islands.

The prison at Tortola is a large stone building more than sufficient for the needs of the Presidency. Only three prisoners were committed during the year, all for minor offences. The staff consisted of a keeper, who is also the Corporal of Police, and a matron, at a cost of £14.

All the prisons of the Colony are kept scrupulously clean, and in St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat the Inspectors of Police have supervising powers as officers-in-charge of prison discipline.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Colony.

The annual session of the General Legislative Council, opened on 2nd March, 1934, seven amendments to existing Acts and three Appropriation Acts were passed. New legislation consisted of the Official Emoluments Levy Act and the Marriage (Prohibited Degrees of Relationship) Act. Of the amending Acts the Pensions and Police Pensions (Amendment) Acts were of the greatest importance. Legislation regarding workmen's compensation is still under consideration. Thirty-nine Statutory Rules and Orders were made under Federal Acts during the year. Most of them dealt with minor matters of administration.

Antigua.

There were five sessions of the Legislative Council during the year and twenty-one Ordinances were passed, fourteen being amendments of existing Ordinances, and the remainder minor financial or administrative legislation. Twenty-six Statutory Rules and Orders were made, the most important dealing with Textile Quotas, as was the case in each Presidency.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Eleven Ordinances (three being amending ones) and eighteen Statutory Rules and Orders became law during the year.

Dominica.

Fourteen Ordinances (six being amending ones) were passed. The most important was the Banana Ordinance to create a body to market bananas and to regulate and control the export thereof. Twenty-two Statutory Rules and Orders were made.

Montserrat.

Seventeen Ordinances (seven amending ones) were passed. Twenty-two Statutory Rules and Orders were made.

Virgin Islands.

Nine Ordinances were made, mostly concerning alterations in taxation, and six Statutory Rules and Orders.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The following is a comparative table of the local revenue and expenditure of the Colony as a whole and its five component Presidencies for the past five financial years, excluding the financial period April-December 1931 when a change to the calendar system took place.

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Montserrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*	*Leeward Islands Colony.*
1929–30.						
Revenue	83,701	97,987	70,674	27,389	6,787	286,538
Expenditure ...	93,930	97,352	68,356	26,879	6,871	293,388
Surplus or Deficit ...	−10,229	+635	+2,318	+510	−84	−6,850
1930–31.						
Revenue	73,730	90,604	63,440	25,176	5,707	258,657
Expenditure ...	91,351	97,659	71,178	28,805	7,027	296,020
Surplus or Deficit ...	−17,621	−7,055	−7,738	−3,629	−1,320	−37,363
1932.						
Revenue	73,223	80,963	52,380	19,344	5,723	231,633
Expenditure ...	82,512	84,250	68,278	23,961	6,420	265,421
Surplus or Deficit ...	−9,289	−3,287	−15,898	−4,617	−697	−33,788
1933.						
Revenue	88,061	91,714	57,207	17,564	4,485	259,031
Expenditure ...	81,006	82,896	64,360	26,763	6,782	261,807
Surplus or Deficit ...	+7,055	+8,818	−7,153	−9,199	−2,297	−2,776
1934.						
Revenue	80,620	101,847	52,332	18,189	4,531	257,519
Expenditure ...	80,351	86,497	63,837	22,750	5,874	259,309
Surplus or Deficit ...	+269	+15,350	−11,505	−4,561	−1,343	−1,790

It will be noticed that the expenditure is less than last year which was the lowest for five years.

The following assistance was afforded to the Colony from Imperial Funds during the year :—

	£
Antigua—	
Loan for construction of new petroleum warehouse	1,500
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes	3,350
St. Kitts-Nevis—	
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes	3,920
Dominica—	
Loan in aid of administration	7,296
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes	13,425
Montserrat—	
Loan in aid of administration	5,500
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes	400

The Public Debts and Sinking Funds of the Colony as at 31st December, 1934, were as follows:—

	Total Debt.	*Sinking Fund (Market value).*
	£	£
Antigua	45,000	27,597
St. Kitts-Nevis	40,500	25,793
Dominica	6,000	892
Montserrat	3,000	1,779
Virgin Islands	Nil.	Nil.
Total	£94,500	£56,061

The main heads of taxation and their yields were approximately as follows:—

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Mont-serrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Customs	**44,823**	**51,274**	**27,140**	**11,479**	**1,729**	**136,445**
Harbour, etc., dues ...	**1,894**	**10,439**	**2,901**	**309**	**46**	**15,589**
Internal Revenue ...	**20,722**	**28,801**	**14,053**	**3,692**	**1,067**	**68,335**
Fees of Offices ...	**6,699**	**3,030**	**2,735**	**928**	**491**	**13,883**
Post Office Telephones, Light, etc.	**3,971**	**6,769**	**4,912**	**1,446**	**212**	**17,310**
Miscellaneous... ...	**2,510**	**1,534**	**592**	**335**	**986**	**5,957**

The Customs Tariff is arranged on either an *ad valorem* or a specific basis. The *ad valorem* rate is mainly on manufactured articles and is usually 10 per cent. British preferential and 15 per cent. general. As a result of the Ottawa Conference, certain improvements in favour of Empire goods were made in the tariffs throughout the Colony. Quotas were established for foreign textiles in 1934. Excise duties are leviable on locally made spirits or tobacco in such Presidencies as make them. Stamp duties are governed by Federal Statutes and are uniform throughout the Colony. There is no hut or poll tax.

APPENDIX.

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St. Christopher-Nevis Gazette	—	St. Kitts Bulletin Office	Weekly.	4s. 2d. per annum
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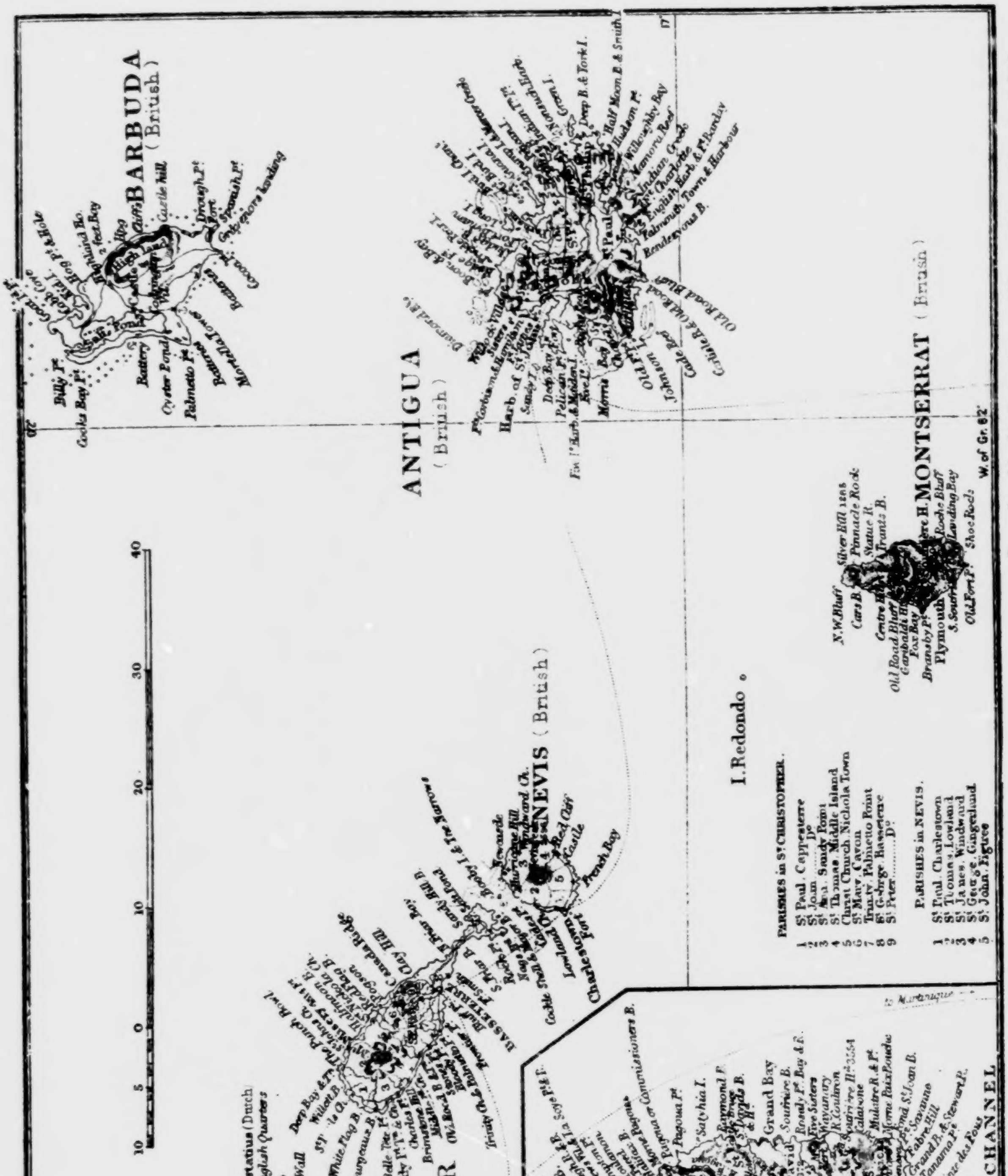
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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR 1935

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Colony of the Leeward Islands, with a total area of 726 square miles, consists of a number of islands belonging partly to the Lesser Antilles and partly to the Greater Antilles. Antigua, Barbuda, St. Christopher (St. Kitts), Nevis, and Montserrat lie between West longitude 61° and 63°, and around North latitude 17°, but Dominica is about 100 miles to the south, separated by the French island of Guadeloupe from the rest. The Virgin Islands, Sombrero, and Anguilla on the other hand lie some distance away to the north-west. The Virgin Islands, St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat, and Dominica are mostly volcanic in origin with mountains rising to 1,780, 3,711, 3,596, 3,002, and 4,750 feet respectively, while Antigua, Barbuda, and Anguilla are sedimentary and are subject to drought.

All the islands are refreshed by the cooling trade winds, though Dominica, with its heavy intervening mountain system, becomes hot and steamy at certain times of the year. The rainfall registered at the different Botanic Stations during 1935 was as follows :—Antigua 49 inches, St. Kitts 42 inches, Dominica 72 inches, Montserrat 52 inches, Virgin Islands 48 inches. The mean temperature was 78° F.

Politically the Colony is divided into five Presidencies :—(*a*) Antigua, with Barbuda and Redonda, (*b*) St. Christopher-Nevis, with Anguilla, (*c*) Dominica, (*d*) Montserrat, and (*e*) the British Virgin Islands (which are in close proximity to the American Virgin Islands). These five Presidencies have been united and separated at various times in their history, and were finally federated in 1871 by an Imperial Act.

From a historical point of view the Leeward Islands Colony is one of the most interesting in the Empire.

St. Kitts was the first island in the West Indies to be systematically colonized by the English, Sir Thomas Warner, captain of the King's Body Guard, bringing out a number of farmers and artisans for that purpose in 1623. In 1666, 1689, and 1782 it was captured by the French, and in the latter year the famous defence of Brimstone Hill took place, a gallant action which ultimately enabled Rodney to defeat the French fleet at " The Saints " near Dominica and save the then Colonial Empire.

In Nevis, in 1787, Nelson, then aged 25 and acting as Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands Naval Station, married the young widow Nisbet, who survived him. In 1757 Alexander Hamilton, the son of a Scottish planter and the founder of the American Constitution, was born in Nevis.

Antigua is the headquarters of the Colony, the residence of the Governor and also of the Archbishop of the West Indies. The island was settled by Sir Thomas Warner's son in 1632, and only once, in 1666, was it captured by the French. At Antigua is the historic old Naval Dockyard, first built in 1725, where Nelson lived between 1785 and 1787. It lies in a romantic narrow inlet, English Harbour, and is to-day just as it was left when the last of the old frigates was warped out. Efforts are now being made to preserve the ruined buildings so that it may be an Empire memorial to the Navy.

Dominica was originally declared as neutral territory between the French and English, but became English by the Treaty of Paris in 1763. In 1771 it was made a separate Colony, but was rejoined to the Leeward Islands in 1832. During that period, however, it was captured and held by the French for five years until restored to England by the Treaty of Versailles in 1783.

In 1805 the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (the old 46th) and the local Militia distinguished themselves in a gallant resistance to General La Grange and a great invading force.

Montserrat was settled by Sir Thomas Warner in 1632, but was captured (and subsequently restored) by the French in 1666 and 1782.

The Virgin Islands were first settled by Dutch farmers, who became buccaneers in 1648. English buccaneers drove them out in

1666, and in 1672 the islands were absorbed into the Leeward Islands Colony. For a long time the islands were the haunts of pirates.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

There is one Governor of the Colony, and his representatives in the Presidencies of St. Christopher-Nevis and Dominica are styled Administrators, and in those of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, Commissioners.

The Colony possesses a Federal Executive and a General Legislative Council, the members of the former and the official members of the latter being appointed by the Crown, while the unofficial members of the latter (three each from Antigua and St. Christopher-Nevis, two from Dominica, and one from Montserrat) are elected by and from the nominated unofficial members of the Legislatures of their respective Presidencies. There is also a nominated unofficial member for the Virgin Islands on the General Legislative Council.

Each Presidency has an Executive and a Legislative Council, with the exception of the Virgin Islands, which has an Executive Council only. The Presidential Legislative Councils have concurrent legislative powers with the General Legislative Council on specified subjects so far as their " Ordinances " are not repugnant to the " Acts " of the latter. The duration of each Legislative Council is limited to three years.

The Antigua Legislative Council, previously partly elected and partly nominated, passed an Act in 1898 abrogating itself and substituting the Crown Colony system.

The St. Kitts and Nevis forms of Legislative Council, partly elected and partly nominated, were abolished by an Act of 1878, and the Crown Colony system substituted.

The Dominica Legislative Council, like that in Antigua, was changed in 1898, but in 1924 an Ordinance was passed allowing for the election of four of the unofficial members.

The Montserrat Legislative Council was similarly changed in 1866.

There has been no Legislative Council in the Virgin Islands since 1902.

In 1936 legislation will be presented to create unofficial majorities, partly elected and partly nominated, in the Presidential Legislative Councils.

Municipal Government.—In Antigua (St. John's) there is a (partly unofficial) municipal body called the " City Commissioners " ; in Dominica there is a partly elected Town Council at Roseau, and a nominated Town Board at Portsmouth.

III.—POPULATION.

The estimated population on 31st December, 1935, was as follows :—

		Area (Sq. miles).	Principal Town (approximate population).
Antigua	32,680	108	St. John's (10,000).
Barbuda ...	1,020	62	—
St. Kitts... ...	18,805	68	Basseterre (8,000).
Nevis	13,472	50	Charlestown (1,200).
Anguilla ...	5,465	34	—
Dominica ...	47,394	305	Roseau (8,000).
Montserrat ...	13,264	32	Plymouth (2,000).
Virgin Islands ...	6,100	67	Road Town (400).
Total ...	138,200	726	

The decennial census of 1931 was not taken in view of the financial condition of the Colony in that year, but the percentages of the different races at the time of the previous census were as stated below, and, although the population has now generally increased, it is probable that the proportions are about the same.

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Montserrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*
White ...	4	3	1½	1	1
Coloured ...	13	16	31½	21	23
Black ...	83	81	67	78	76

The birth and death rates per 1,000 in 1935 were as follows :—

	Birth-rate.	*Death-rate.*	*Infant Mortality.*
Antigua	41·47	20·9	105·2
Barbuda	37·65	16·6	
St. Kitts	44·5	28·9	200·5
Nevis	26·9	16·6	203·9
Anguilla	36·9	17·9	99·0
Dominica	31·0	14·6	97·5
Montserrat	37·0	13·9	130·3
Virgin Islands ...	36·4	16·4	109·3

Infantile mortality for the past five years has been as follows :—

	1931.	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
Antigua and Barbuda...	185	93	175	125	105
St. Kitts	185	167	180	229	200
Nevis	186	102	73	104	204
Anguilla	92	53	76	116	99
Dominica	170	88	126	107	97
Montserrat	172	89	134	94	130
Virgin Islands ...	101	136	165	69	109

The emigration and immigration figures of the Colony about balance during recent years. Before the embargo on free emigration to the United States, Cuba, and Puerto Rico, the emigration figures considerably outnumbered those of immigration. There is still a certain amount of emigration for work on the sugar estates in the Dominican Republic, but it is seasonal, and the men usually return the same year. The Government of Panama is repatriating British West Indian labourers at its expense.

IV.—HEALTH.

General.

The Colony, which from November to May is only semi-tropical, is gradually becoming known as a health resort, and more visitors are coming yearly, especially during the winter months, from the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States of America.

Hospitals are established in the principal centres, and there are twenty-five Government Medical Officers stationed throughout the Colony. There is also a system of village dispensaries. Water supplies in most of the islands are good and plentiful. Legislation regarding bakeries and dairies is in force, and the meat markets are regularly inspected. The ordinary diseases found in tropical countries prevail, but not usually in a serious form. Cases of ankylostomiasis, filariasis, dysentery, malaria, tuberculosis, venereal diseases, and yaws, are found in varying numbers.

There is a central lunatic asylum (185 patients) at Antigua, and leper homes at Antigua (32 patients) and St. Kitts (52 patients).

The teeth of the school children in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis have been receiving special care from dentists subsidized by the Government. Homes for the aged and infirm are now established in Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica and Montserrat.

Antigua.

Bacteriological laboratory.—The work in the laboratory has continued and has been found most useful and essential to the District Medical Officers and the whole community. During the year 2,706 examinations were made, of which 1,510 were blood examinations for malaria, 583 Khan tests, and 57 Widal tests.

Venereal diseases.—Treatment has been decentralized in order to permit of patients obtaining treatment at the district dispensaries nearest their homes. There are 21 such centres.

Infant welfare.—There are three Government crêches and a voluntary crêche in St. John's. These crêches are under the supervision of a Superintendent of District Nurses and of Child Welfare. The crêches are well patronized and are a great boon to the working women who leave their infants at the crêche all day while they are working in the fields on the estates.

Sanitation.—The Central Country Board of Health has been reorganized and is now under the chairmanship of the Chief Medical Officer and has been strengthened by the addition of all the District Medical Officers.

The District Boards of Health have also been re-arranged under the chairmanship of the district medical officers.

Two additional Sanitary Inspectors have been appointed.

Concrete drains have been laid down in eight villages and also a large drain in the Oval pasture adjacent to St. John's.

Free dental inspection and treatment of school children has been continued and is a very valuable adjunct to the child welfare of the community.

Population.—There were 1,231 births and 619 deaths during the year.

Hospitals, etc.—There is a hospital with 91 beds (capable of more if required). It has an X-ray room. There were 544 males and 425 females admitted during the year. The average duration in hospital was 15 days. The number of major operations was 112 and minor operations 275.

Home for the aged and infirm. (Fiennes Institute).—100 beds. 58 males and 49 females were admitted. There were 65 deaths chiefly from diseases incidental to old age.

Dispensaries.—There are now 14 Government dispensaries in Antigua and one in Barbuda. There are 26 Government district nurses who are also midwives.

There is a quarantine station and, as already mentioned, a leper home and a lunatic asylum, the latter being a Federal institution.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Infant welfare.—Infant welfare work progresses. Since the movement was started and crêches under the supervision of the District Matron were provided, infant mortality in St. Kitts has decreased from 409·6 per 1,000 living births in 1920, to 200·8 in 1935. A new crêche and infant welfare centre have been established at Gingerland, Nevis.

Population.—There were 1,403 births and 865 deaths in the Presidency in 1935. Stillbirths numbered 98.

Hospitals.—The central hospital, at Basseterre, St. Kitts, has 87 beds and 5 maternity beds. Other hospitals are at Sandy Point, St. Kitts (16 beds), Nevis (between 30 and 40 beds) and Anguilla (8 beds). There are homes for the aged and the infirm at Basseterre (50 beds) and at Nevis (12 beds). The leper home in the Sandy Point district has 52 inmates.

Staff.—The Presidency is divided into 7 medical districts (St. Kitts 4, Nevis 2 and Anguilla 1). There are 3 European nursing sisters in the Presidency, one of whom is District Matron and trains pupil midwives. There are 8 Sanitary Inspectors working under the supervision of the Senior Medical Officer. Dental clinics are held regularly by the Government Dental Officer and the attention to the teeth of the elementary school children should produce results, in the years to come, in the general health of the people. Dispensaries are established in different parts of the medical districts.

Dominica.

The Chief Medical and Health Officer is in general charge of all matters concerned with public health.

The Medical and Sanitary Services Ordinance, 1935, amalgamates and brings up to date the legislation governing public health.

Infant Welfare.—The Roseau Crèche was closed during the last quarter of 1935, but subscriptions for child welfare work have been continued and used to enlarge the scope of the Infant Welfare Clinic held in connection with the Maternity Ward of the Roseau Hospital. A voluntary Committee will control the finances of this clinic and arrange any special efforts on its behalf. The St. John's Child Welfare Committee have maintained their special clinic at Portsmouth.

Sanitation.—The sanitation of the towns of Roseau and Portsmouth has continued under the control of the Roseau Town Council and Portsmouth Town Board respectively, with their own sanitary officers. Under new legislation the Central Board of Health has been granted increased powers to make regulations for the rest of the Island with respect to various matters of public health, and the sanitary organization has been enlarged to include ten sanitary inspectors for the more important country districts. Special efforts have been directed against ankylostomiasis, malaria, tuberculosis, and yaws.

Vital Statistics.—The birth-rate of 31·05 for 1935 was below the average of 33·17 for the five-year period 1930-4. The death-rate of 14·58 is the lowest recorded and well below the average of 16·96 for the previous five years. The infant mortality rate of 97·5 also compares favourably with an average of 123·12 for the previous five years. Deaths of all ages from all forms of tuberculosis numbered 71 out of a total of 683. Malaria, which is endemic, was again prevalent and accounted for 47 deaths. There was a sharp epidemic of influenza which began in March and lasted for about two months, during which period about 2,000 cases were attended by the Medical Officers, and 37 deaths were registered as due to influenza with respiratory complications.

Hospitals.—There is a Central Hospital at Roseau with 102 beds; admissions in 1935 numbered 1,517. Smaller hospitals are maintained at Portsmouth (33 beds), Marigot (6 beds), and Grand Bay (4 beds), with respectively 629, 125, and 96 admissions during the year. At Roseau there is also the home for the aged and infirm with accommodation for about 30 inmates. Eighteen dispensaries are maintained in the four Medical Districts.

Staff.—There are four District Medical Officers under the Chief Medical Officer. Six dispensers (including two who are the stewards of the Roseau and Portsmouth hospitals) assist the Medical Officers. The training of nurses and midwives is under the supervision of the European Matron of the Roseau Hospital. In addition to the nursing staffs of the hospitals, three nurse-midwives are employed in the Districts.

Montserrat.

The general health of the population of Montserrat during the year 1935 has been good. Economic conditions continued slowly but steadily to improve, and the effect of this on the people was here and there manifest.

In the capital town of Plymouth and its environs the odour of the abnormally increased gaseous emissions from the Gages' Soufrière was at times nauseating and irritant, but generally speaking there has been very little noticeable effect upon the inhabitants. The continued earthquake shocks seemed to keep older members of the population in a state of apprehension; some of the younger members seemed deeply concerned as to possible developments while others appeared to regard earth shocks as a matter of course.

The Glendon Hospital was very badly damaged by the earthquake of 10th November, and the existing ruin is doomed to demolition. It is hoped that this building will in the near future be replaced by one of reinforced concrete.

Patients in hospital at the time of the earthquake were thrown into a state of panic, among them being many surgical cases in a critical post-operative state.

Efforts made during previous years to disseminate information in respect to pulmonary tuberculosis seemed to have shown some results. The number of cases of active tuberculosis encountered was lower than in previous years, and deaths from this disease numbered only four.

Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers were not encountered during the year.

Filariasis was a noticeable disease during the year. The rainfall was fairly heavy and the prevalence of mosquitos caused considerable anxiety. Yaws and syphilis seem to be steadily on the wane.

Infant welfare.—This work and the supervision of the two district nurse-midwives is under the care of the European nursing sister at the hospital. Infant mortality reached the low figure of 121 per thousand living births.

Staff.—There are two medical officers in the Island.

Virgin Islands.

The health of the Presidency remained satisfactory in 1935. Malaria has subsided to a great extent.

Population.—There were 183 births and 84 deaths registered.

Hospital.—Under the care of the European nursing sister the hospital continues to serve the needs of the people. Only three cases of typhoid were under treatment during the year.

Staff.—The medical staff of the Presidency consists of one medical officer, one European nursing sister and one sanitary officer in Tortola and one dispenser at Anegada Island.

V.—HOUSING.

Antigua.

The Housing Scheme, financed originally from the Colonial Development Fund, has improved the type of house used by the poorer classes and with it goes improvement in living conditions of the people. The houses are mainly of standard type and consist of three rooms and a verandah, with a separate latrine and kitchen. The houses are very sanitary and easily disinfected. The demand for houses in the model village was not maintained in 1935. In addition to the model village, similar houses under the same scheme have been erected on the Antigua land settlement area at Greencastle, at the village of All Saints, and at other places. One of the most valuable aspects of the scheme is that it is proving an encouragement and an incentive to others of the artisan and peasant class to build new houses for themselves and a much improved type of house is appearing in many parts of the island.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The Housing Scheme, started in 1930 and temporarily suspended pending re-consideration of the type of house to be built, has been continued. The scheme, which has been financed from the Colonial Development Fund, is run on similar lines to that in Antigua. Up to the end of 1935, 45 model houses have been constructed at Basseterre and 16 at Sandy Point.

The larger residences and places of business are of two storeys, the lower, generally speaking, of stone and the upper of wood. These buildings are provided with hurricane shutters as the islands are almost in the centre of the hurricane zone.

Dominica.

No housing scheme is yet in operation in Dominica, nor are there any building societies in existence. The finances of the Presidency do not warrant the matter being taken in hand at the present time. The conditions which have to be complied with in the erection of new houses in the two main towns, Roseau and Portsmouth, have been made more stringent.

Montserrat.

Efforts to improve the housing conditions of the Presidency have suffered a serious set-back as a result of the earthquakes which occurred throughout the year, the shocks causing most serious damage being those of 6th May and 10th November. Even with the situation as acute as it is, the Government Concrete Housing Scheme has suffered handicaps due to the difficulty of furnishing the necessary deeds for lands on the part of persons making application for these houses.

Virgin Islands.

The housing conditions of the people are much better than those in the other Presidencies. The average house of the peasant measures about 20 ft. by 15 ft. and is surrounded by an acre or more of arable land. The present living conditions seem admirably suited to the population which consists almost entirely of small landowners and fishermen. Practically all the houses are owned by the occupiers and the general condition of the houses may be described as clean and sanitary.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Sugar, cotton, limes and lime products, oranges, grapefruit, bananas, cocoa and table vegetables are the chief products of the Colony. The following table summarises the principal exports of local produce of the whole colony for the year 1935 compared with the previous year :—

		1934.		*1935.*	
		Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £
Avocado pears	crates	4,344	838	3,726	744
Bananas	bunches	37,850	3,253	71,527	5,780
Bay oil	lb.	14,988	2,206	16,474	2,421
Cattle	...	1,734	5,043	1,500	4,400
Cocoa	lb.	324,333	2,983	344,156	3,459
Coconuts	No.	209,685	479	314,720	627
Copra	lb.	247,508	836	283,833	1,084
Cotton	lb.	977,868	50,009	1,232,975	66,495
Cotton seed	tons	400	1,544	455	1,625
Grapefruit	crates	3,167	1,403	5,386	2,596
Lime-juice, raw	gal.	96,803	5,363	134,761	5,724
Lime oil, distilled	lb.	6,288	6,418	7,457	7,789
Lime oil, ecuelled	lb.	245	393	1,940	2,149
Limes, green	brls. & crates	7,561	8,357	8,813	8,040
Mangoes	brls.	4,084	1,225	3,462	1,363
Molasses	gal.	1,781,459	4,542	816,549	10,307
Oranges	brls. & crates	7,192	4,324	8,850	5,773
Rum	gal.	17,521	2,281	12,187	1,721
Salt	tons	1,302	2,056	1,400	2,188
Sugar	tons	48,997	456,534	43,352	388,213
Tobacco (leaf)	lb.	12,800	1,031	5,823	249
Tomatoes	crates	8,847	1,455	18,334	2,733

Antigua.

There are two modern sugar factories, one at Gunthorpes, owned by the Antigua Sugar Factory Company (Henckel, Dubuisson and Company), and one at Bendals owned by the South Western Estates Company. The capacity of the former is approximately 22,000 tons and that of the latter 4,000 tons. There were 17,389 tons of crystal sugar, of approximately 96° polarization, manufactured during 1935, as well as a small quantity of muscovado sugar at a minor factory. (The Antigua Sugar Factory is a 14-roller mill and can make a ton of sugar from less than 8 tons of cane.) The average yield of cane per acre was 15 tons. There were also 324,562 gallons of molasses exported. The sugar is sold either to England or to Canada to be refined. The gyrotiller plough, bought for £6,000 in 1931 by the Antigua Sugar Factory, with some assistance from the Colonial Development Fund, continues to function satisfactorily. The Antigua Sugar Factory owns about 38 miles of 2½ ft.-gauge and the Bendals Factory about 8 miles of 2 ft.-gauge railway, to bring in the canes from the estates over the island. Estates vary between 80 and 400 acres (reaping area). Both factories paid 14s. a ton of cane in 1935. The approximate cost of production per ton of sugar is fairly constant as regards the manufacturing expenditure, which has been brought down by the Antigua Sugar Factory to about £2 15s. 2d., but with regard to the growing of the cane the cost varies considerably, and in a year of poor cane-yields the planting costs will rise to a very much higher figure than in a year when the yield per acre is high.

The activities of the Agricultural Department continue to increase. Series of experiments in connexion with sugar cane investigation were continued in 1935, and an agricultural assistant, whose office had been in temporary abeyance, was appointed early in the year. Work on the Greencastle Experimental Station and the Land Settlement Scheme continues and progresses. From the Experimental Station the following were distributed :—

> Cane cuttings, 34,695 ; onion seedlings, 40,100 ; in addition to smaller quantities of other plants and seeds.

The endeavours to introduce the *Lyxophaga Diatraea* for the purpose of reducing the moth borer in sugar cane have not been successful.

The cotton crop amounted to 32,950 lb. of lint. The bulk of the cotton crop is grown by the peasants and is purchased on a co-operative basis by a central ginnery. A first payment is made on the nominal prices ruling in England and ultimately 75 per cent. of the profits are paid over as a bonus.

Efforts are being made to encourage the minor industries particularly fruit ; and budded citrus, grafted mangoes and budded avocado pears continue to be distributed from the Government Nursery. The acreage under sugar cane in 1935 was 12,798, and under other crops 1,458.

The Land Settlement Scheme continues to be extended, and in 1934 Jonas Estate, of approximately 260 acres, was purchased.

Officers of the Agricultural Department pay visits to the peasants' holdings, and lectures are given on practical agriculture not only to the peasants but also to the elementary school teachers, who in turn pass it on to the children in the schools. By this means it is hoped to instil in early life the rudiments of agricultural training into the labouring population. The gyrotiller plough is hired out by the Antigua Sugar Factory to the peasants at £2 an acre.

The following table shows the relative exports of the principal products of Antigua over a period of five years :—

		1931.	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
Sugar (ton)		4,977	19,168	23,875	20,677	16,072
„ (value)	£	48,197	182,116	234,920	196,534	151,249
„ acreage of cane reaped ...		7,865	7,936	9,450	9,686	9,800
Molasses (gal.)		33,758	757,701	520,232	808,459	324,562
„ (value)	£	715	12,782	1,084	2,515	2,188
Cotton (lb.)		131,700	22,500	8,400	9,600	32,950
„ (value)	£	6,585	936	420	480	2,062
Lime juice, raw (gal.)		—	1,280	9,189	3,712	6,916
„ „ „ (value)	£	—	75	557	142	305
Tamarinds (barrels)		397	520	495	152	461
„ (value) ...	£	348	456	427	93	295
Rum (gal.)		—	—	—	851	2,008
„ (value)	£	—	—	—	133	293

St. Kitts-Nevis.

There is one central modern sugar factory, owned by the Basseterre Sugar Factory Company (Henckel, Dubuisson Co.), of an original capacity of approximately 20,000 tons, which has since been considerably increased. It is connected to the various sugar estates by a narrow-gauge railway encircling the island. 28,491 tons of crystal sugar, a record for the island, of approximately 96 degrees polarization, were made from 205,192 tons of canes reaped from about 8,105 acres, an average yield of over 25 tons to the acre.

Recently the planters have made serious efforts to increase the yields of cane by the introduction of parasites for the control of insect pests, and by an extended use of artificial fertilizers.

All estates have a certain number of contract labourers, who live in estate houses and receive free medical attention and a free plot of land for growing ground provisions and vegetables.

In Nevis, the area under sugar cane was increased and 2,429 tons of canes were sold to the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory. Small quantities of muscovado sugar and fancy molasses were manufactured.

1,450 acres were planted with cotton in 1935 and 202,042 lb. of lint produced.

There are Government agricultural instructors in Nevis and Anguilla, who pay visits to peasants' holdings and endeavour to improve their methods of agriculture.

Progress has been made with the land settlement schemes in Nevis and Anguilla.

The following table shows the relative exports of the principal products of St. Kitts-Nevis over a period of five years :—

		1931.	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
Sugar (tons)		12,021	19,969	22,588	28,320	27,280
„ (value)	£	110,234	197,466	234,747	260,000	236,964
Molasses (gal.)		589,700	459,404	630,749	973,000	453,999
„ (value)	£	5,759	2,971	2,897	2,027	5,126
Cotton (lb.)		245,500	85,018	88,550	141,687	204,647
„ (value)	£	12,364	4,250	4,701	8,200	10,327
Cotton Seed (tons)		388	35	—	60	2
„ „ (value)	£	1,363	290	—	250	40
Coconuts		43,900	78,770	56,953	105,646	95,157
„ (value)	£	256	445	289	228	215
Tomatoes (lb.)		151,900	53,000	28,637	12,000	15,880
„ (value)	£	1,352	524	221	105	120
Salt (tons)		2,316	759	34	1,302	1,677
„ (value)	£	2,505	655	9	2,056	2,188

Dominica.

Although with the exception of bananas, there was no phenomenal increase in the production of agricultural products, the quantities exported were, generally speaking, larger than in the previous year.

The lime industry is showing signs of recovery and in the aggregate exports of limes and lime products showed an increase of approximately 1,000 barrels of fruit. Calculated on the usual basis, the crop exported in 1935 totalled 28,214 barrels of limes as compared with 27,093 barrels exported in 1934.

The fresh fruit export trade has shown marked improvement; Dominica navel oranges in particular have been in big demand by Canadian buyers and have established a good reputation on account of their superior flavour and juiciness. Exports of grapefruit increased, the principal market again being Canada. The export trade in mangoes and avocado pears was fairly well maintained. The banana industry made particularly good progress, exports showing an increase of 33,677 bunches.

There was a definite upward trend in the export of coconuts and copra. The price of copra considerably improved and a trial shipment of dry coconuts gives promise of a regular export trade developing.

The price of cocoa was very low and offered little inducement to growers to spend money on anything more than bare maintenance of cultivations. Prices improved slightly at the end of the year and the bulk of the 1935-6 crop has been sold in advance.

Since the inauguration in 1931 of the Plant Distribution Scheme, 198,043 budded or grafted fruit trees, and 131,076 coffee and 48,788 cocoa plants, together with large numbers of other economic plants, have been propagated and distributed by the Agricultural Department.

A few of the principal estates are owned by Europeans, but the majority belong to local planters. There is a preponderance of peasant holdings which contribute to the production of staple products as well as supplying ground provisions for local consumption.

The raising of livestock is left to individual enterprise and the number raised is barely sufficient for local needs.

There is no organized fishing industry, but natives engage in fishing to meet the local demand for fresh fish.

The following table shows the relative exports of the principal products of Dominica over a period of five years :—

	1931.	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
Limes, total crop estimated as " barrels "	**68,000**	**48,000**	**36,000**	**27,000**	**28,214**
Limes, green or fresh (barrels)	**10,867**	**8,394**	**4,391**	**3,790**	**4,035**
„ „ „ (value) £	**13,584**	**10,418**	**4,033**	**4,598**	**6,123**
Lime juice, raw (gal.) ...	**93,255**	**62,545**	**37,770**	**74,908**	**48,074**
„ „ „ (value)... £	**3,886**	**2,911**	**1,889**	**4,523**	**2,002**
Lime juice, concentrated (gal.)	**3,211**	**5,561**	**35,467**	**7,462**	**3,372**
„ „ „ (value) £	**241**	**193**	**1,817**	**273**	**184**
Lime oil, distilled (lb.) ...	**14,446**	**11,218**	**9,302**	**6,288**	**7,127**
„ „ „ (value) £	**21,668**	**13,271**	**10,288**	**6,418**	**7,443**
Lime oil, ecuelled (lb.) ...	**2,158**	**617**	**320**	**245**	**140**
„ „ „ (value) £	**4,611**	**677**	**353**	**393**	**186**
Bay oil (lb.)	**17,783**	**20,915**	**21,774**	**14,988**	**16,474**
„ „ (value) ... ... £	**4,447**	**3,683**	**3,630**	**2,206**	**2,421**
Oranges (crates and barrels) ...	**3,214**	**6,583**	**7,255**	**7,192**	**8,850**
„ (value) ... ... £	**1,971**	**2,236**	**3,268**	**4,324**	**5,764**
Grapefruit (crates)	**1,531**	**3,954**	**5,981**	**3,167**	**5,386**
„ (value) ... £	**767**	**1,937**	**2,684**	**1,403**	**2,596**
Avocado Pears (crates)	**670**	**1,254**	**2,946**	**4,344**	**3,726**
„ „ (value) ... £	**179**	**276**	**567**	**838**	**744**
Mangoes (crates)	**4,006**	**6,743**	**6,872**	**4,084**	**3,462**
„ (value) ... ... £	**995**	**1,496**	**931**	**1,225**	**1,363**
Cocoa (lb.)	**218,773**	**269,099**	**358,112**	**324,333**	**344,156**
„ (value) ... ... £	**1,595**	**1,837**	**2,550**	**2,983**	**3,459**
Coconuts	**50,355**	**116,840**	**109,357**	**103,639**	**230,170**
„ (value) ... £	**344**	**384**	**223**	**249**	**452**
Copra (lb.)	**45,526**	**107,107**	**105,237**	**247,508**	**278,793**
„ (value) ... ... £	**351**	**1,112**	**882**	**836**	**1,066**
Rum (gal.)	**1,380**	**11,520**	**24,660**	**17,521**	**10,179**
„ (value) ... ... £	**252**	**1,587**	**3,811**	**2,281**	**1,428**
Vanilla (lb.)	**114**	**1,974**	**21**	**797**	**609**
„ (value) ... ... £	**29**	**395**	**2**	**109**	**152**
Bananas (bunches)	**1,556**	**9,019**	**22,304**	**37,850**	**71,527**
„ (value) ... £	**154**	**422**	**889**	**3,253**	**5,780**
Hardwood (ft.)	—	—	**65,193**	**108,466**	**95,407**
„ (value) ... ... £	—	—	**405**	**965**	**537**
Tobacco Leaf (lb.)	—	—	**1,834**	**12,800**	**5,823**
„ (value) ... ... £	—	—	**144**	**1,031**	**349**

Montserrat.

A record crop of cotton was produced in 1935. The production from 4,438 acres was 1,008,000 lb. of lint (227 lb. of lint per acre). An improved price, ranging between 1s. 3d. and 1s. 7d. was obtained for lint shipped to the United Kingdom and the continent of Europe.

It is hoped that, after years of uncertainty, the vegetable trade has been re-established on a sound basis. Weather and market conditions rendered this trade very profitable. Montserrat is essentially an island of peasant holders, 94 per cent. of the land-owners having less than 10 acres each. There are only 38 owners having more than 100 acres each.

The following table shows the relative exports of the principal products of Montserrat during the past five years :—

	1931.	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
Cotton (lb.)	400,389	187,131	599,631	826,581	1,018,041
„ (value) ... ... £	24,249	12,939	24,577	41,329	54,106
„ acreage planted	3,400	1,500	2,187	3,106	4,438
Cotton seed (tons)	263	141	216	340	455
„ „ (value) ... £	919	437	723	1,294	1,625
Limes, green or fresh (barrels)	292	580	9,071	3,674	4,521
„ „ „ (value) £	148	625	1,324	3,674	1,742
Lime juice, raw (gal.)	22,840	29,134	48,691	18,183	79,771
„ „ „ (value) £	1,091	1,453	4,231	698	3,417
Tomatoes (crates of 20 lb.) ...	16,966	22,764	8,110	8,097	18,334
„ „ „ (value) £	2,832	—	1,309	1,350	2,733
Onions (lb.)	21,600	41,564	50,906	65,495	27,630
„ (value) ... ... £	179	300	335	397	149

Virgin Islands.

A certain amount of sugar is produced, and either consumed or converted into rum for local consumption. The cultivation of cotton has been recommenced and it is hoped that the increased prices at present obtaining will enable the industry to be placed on a sound footing. A tobacco industry was started about ten years ago and a fair quality of local cigars was produced, but the prices proved unremunerative and the industry ceased. A certain amount of fishing is done. Until a few years ago the people of the British Virgin Islands found a useful market for their cattle and vegetable produce in St. Thomas, where an American Naval Station was established, but on this being removed, and on partial restrictions being placed against the importation of British livestock, trade with that island has become stagnant, and the British Virgin islanders now find difficulty in selling their vegetables, cattle and goats in the islands. Weather conditions, too, are a handicap, as the rainfall is normally not large and, these small islands being mountainous, any rain that falls runs off too rapidly into the sea. Practically all the land is peasant-owned.

Livestock of the Leeward Islands.

Although mechanical ploughs are being found very suitable for the hard clay soils of Antigua, cattle will be for a long time needed as plough and draught animals in that island and also in St. Kitts-Nevis and Dominica. In the former island a mixed strain with imported Mysore or zebu blood has been found very useful. Horses are principally in use by the planters and overseers for riding about the estates. Mules are to a certain extent used for ploughing in both St. Kitts and Antigua. Donkeys are largely the means of transport of the labouring classes. Sheep are only required for the meat markets, and are usually of poor quality. Goats, pigs, and poultry are bred in large quantities for food purposes by the labouring classes.

In Antigua and St. Kitts there are qualified Government veterinary surgeons, who inspect all livestock on importation, examine market animals before and after slaughter, and periodically examine milking cattle. They also look after the health of all horses and mules belonging to the Government. They are allowed private practice among the estates of the island.

An investigation has been made into the incidence of Bovine Tuberculosis in Antigua and measures to combat this disease are receiving consideration.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The total values of the imports and exports of the Colony for the past five years have been as follows :—

	1931.	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports from United Kingdom	**210,508**	**246,592**	**269,129**	**245,654**	**231,319**
„ „ Canada	**138,943**	**107,346**	**109,089**	**112,635**	**121,792**
„ „ Rest of Empire ...	**96,280**	**87,966**	**93,473**	**86,203**	**98,948**
„ „ United States of America.	**132,584**	**80,797**	**75,022**	**79,973**	**82,273**
„ „ Other foreign countries.	**40,789**	**28,787**	**54,780**	**53,602**	**44,593**
Total ...	**619,104**	**551,488**	**601,493**	**578,067**	**578,925**
Exports to United Kingdom ...	**81,990**	**296,062**	**387,345**	**379,628**	**299,481**
„ „ Canada	**128,560**	**114,047**	**108,997**	**119,170**	**184,242**
„ „ Rest of Empire ...	**25,410**	**26,076**	**21,265**	**36,200**	**40,859**
„ „ United States of America.	**33,157**	**33,452**	**20,321**	**16,957**	**17,439**
„ „ Other foreign countries.	**17,125**	**13,626**	**21,688**	**25,221**	**29,681**
Total	**286,242**	**483,263**	**559,616**	**577,176**	**571,702**
Percentage of value of exported sugar to total exports.	**58**	**82**	**81**	**77**	**70**

From the above it will be seen that sugar forms the bulk of the Colony's exports, and that any lowering of the value of sugar exports, due to hurricane, drought, or low prices, is at once reflected not only in the total export trade but automatically in the import trade, because there is less money in circulation. The percentages of imports are as follows :—

	1931. per cent.	*1932.* per cent.	*1933.* per cent.	*1934.* per cent.	*1935.* per cent.
United Kingdom	34	45	44	42	40
Canada	22	19	18	20	21
Rest of the Empire	15	16	16	15	17
United States of America ...	21	15	12	13	14
Other foreign countries	7	5	10	10	8

It is interesting to note that the increase in imports from the United Kingdom with a corresponding fall in imports from the United States of America, which is highly satisfactory from an Imperial point of view, has been maintained, in spite of the fact that £1 now buys £1 worth of goods in the United States, as contrasted with 13s. worth in 1932 and 1933 after the departure of Great Britain from the Gold Standard. Owing, however, to the lesser rate of import duty on British goods, the revenues of the Colony have suffered. The trade with the United Kingdom in motor-cars, shoes, groceries, cotton, and fancy goods might be still further developed, but not by correspondence. Visits of commercial travellers with samples are very necessary.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The day wages of field labourers vary from 1s. to 2s. for men and 6d. to 10d. for women, with about 3s. 6d. to 6s. for artizans. The wages of domestic servants are from 4s. to 12s. a week. Most of the field work on the estates is done by the task, and in the crop season labourers frequently perform two tasks a day, earning from 16s. to 20s. a week. In addition to this estate labourers are usually provided with free medical attendance, houses, and land for planting provisions.

For office workers and professional men the cost of living is about the same as in the country districts of England. The rent of bungalows or small houses is about £40 to £60 a year. The hotels, which are more like small boarding houses, charge between 8s. 4d. and 16s. 8d. a day. The average prices of foodstuffs per lb. are :— bread 4d., flour 2½d., fish 4d., beef 8d., and milk 4d. per qt.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE.

Education.

Educational facilities in the Colony are good. Elementary or primary schools (all free and undenominational) are maintained by Government throughout Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica, and are State-aided in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands. There is an advisory Board of Education in each Presidency. A sum of £26,339 was provided for education in 1935. Pupil teachers are trained locally for three years, and then selected ones are awarded studentships for higher training at the Training College in Trinidad for men, or the Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College at Antigua for women.

Antigua.

The Boys' Grammar School, founded in 1884, is open to all races and denominations, but is the property of the Anglican diocese of Antigua. There are about 65 boys on the roll. The teaching staff consists of a headmaster and three whole time and four part time assistants. The Government subsidy in 1935 was £500, in part return for which seven free Government scholarships of £12 a year are given.

The Girls' High School, founded 1886, is open to all races and denominations, and has about 80 pupils, some 20 being boarders. The teaching is arranged for by a headmistress, a deputy, and five assistant mistresses, resident at the school. The Government subsidy in 1935 was £200, in part return for which there are five free Government scholarships.

The T. O. Robinson Memorial School, founded in 1898, is open to all races and denominations and has about 80 pupils, boys and girls. Miss Robinson, the proprietress, is aided by a teaching staff, and all the usual facilities for instruction and recreation are afforded. There is a School Board, and the Government pays a subsidy of £90 a year.

In Antigua there are 20 Government elementary or primary schools and several small private ones; at Barbuda there is a primary school managed by the Anglican authorities and receiving a Government grant of £90 per annum. There is at St. John's a small night-school, held in a Government school-building, under the auspices of Toc H.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The St. Kitts-Nevis Grammar School is a Government school, and has about 40 pupils. In 1935 £903 was allocated for salaries of staff and £279 for equipment and scholarships.

The Girls' High School is maintained in a Government building, and a subsidy on a sliding scale is paid to the headmistress, Miss Pickard. There are also a Convent School managed by the Order of Missionary Canonesses of St. Augustine and a small private school for girls.

In Nevis there is a secondary school, for boys and girls, owned by Miss Bridgewater, to whom a Government subsidy of £75 is paid.

There are 16 Government primary schools in St. Kitts, 10 in Nevis, and 5 in Anguilla. The number of children enrolled in these is about 7,500.

Dominica.

There is a Government Grammar School for boys, with 41 pupils. A private school, called St. Mary's Academy, with 38 boys, was also started in 1932. The Convent School for girls, managed by the Order of the Faithful Virgin, has 70 pupils. There is also a Wesley High School for girls, with 17 pupils. The Government maintains 28 primary schools, and there are several such grant-aided schools. The total enrolment is 7,642 pupils. Agricultural instruction is a useful feature in most of the Government schools of the Colony, but especially so in Dominica.

There are night schools at Roseau and Portsmouth, which are doing very good work.

Montserrat.

The Grammar School for boys is a Government institution, maintained at a cost of some £725 per annum. There is also a small secondary school for girls, which receives a Government grant of £100 per annum. There are 12 primary schools, grant-aided, with some 2,800 scholars on the roll.

Virgin Islands.

1,252 children are enrolled in the primary schools, all denominational and Government-aided. There are no secondary schools.

Welfare.

A small Reformatory School exists at Antigua for about 20 boys. Reference has already been made in the chapter on the health of the Colony to homes for the aged and infirm and to the crêche system in the various Presidencies. A number of Mutual Friendly Societies exist with funds for sickness and burials, organized either in conjunction with the different churches or of an undenominational character.

There are Lodges of Freemasons in most of the Presidencies.

The principal religious denominations in the Colony are the Anglican, Wesleyan, Moravian Mission, Roman Catholic (very numerous in Dominica), and some minor sects of American origin. The Salvation Army has also rendered useful service of a general nature for some years past. The Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements have taken a firm hold in recent years and there are now about 500 of the former and 500 of the latter in the Colony. The Toc. H. Association has been established in Antigua, the first branch in the West Indies.

Recreation.

Forms of recreation are plentiful for all classes. Sea-bathing in the warm blue-green water off the palm-fringed white beaches of Antigua and Anguilla is as good as can be found anywhere in the world; and in places in the other islands is also very good.

Sailing and fishing are indulged in to a limited extent. Cricket is a sport that appeals to popular enthusiasm throughout the islands, and the inter-Presidential annual tournament always creates the greatest excitement. Tennis clubs exist in all the Presidencies, and it can be played on grass courts all the year round. Association football has become popular in recent years during the winter months. There is a 9-hole golf course at Antigua.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Sea.

The principal islands of the Colony are served by the following steamship companies :—

Canadian National.—From Canada.
Ocean Dominion.—From Canada.
Bermuda and West Indies (Furness Withy).—From New York.
American Caribbean Line.—From New York.
Harrison Line.—From England.
Compagnie Générale Transatlantique.—From Havre.

Smaller steamships of the Dutch line also call at St. Kitts, and schooners and sloops make irregular calls at most of the islands. His Majesty's ships from the American and West Indies Station (headquarters, Bermuda), occasionally spend a few days among the islands, particularly in the winter months. During 1935, 1,188 British steamships, of a total tonnage of 4,873,817 tons, and 737 foreign steamships, of a total tonnage of 1,536,001 tons, entered and cleared the ports of the Colony.

Air.

The branch of Pan-American Air-ways that flies between Miami and Trinidad calls regularly for passengers and mails on Mondays and Fridays at Antigua.

Roads.

In Antigua there are 166 miles of roads (65 miles being main roads) mostly of very moderate quality, traversed by motors, carriages, ox waggons, horses, and donkeys; the latter, pannier-carrying, being a feature of peasant transport for produce. There are also motor-omnibus services in most of the Presidencies. In St. Kitts there is a main road 30 miles in length encircling the island. In Nevis there is a similar encircling road 18 miles in length. Anguilla has about 20 miles of good roads, but there are only about a dozen cars in the island. Dominica roads are a most difficult problem owing to the mountains and rivers and frequent landslides. There are now about 270 miles of roads of which 68 are motor roads. A launch service takes the place of an impassable road between Roseau and Portsmouth. Montserrat has 68 miles of roads, but not more than about half this distance is really suitable for motor traffic. The Virgin Islands have no motor roads outside Road Town, all land traffic being by horse-back or donkey-back.

As mentioned in Chapter VI, there are narrow-gauge railways in Antigua and St. Kitts, but these are only for sugar transport.

Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones.

There are central Post Offices at St. John's, Basseterre, Roseau, Plymouth and Road Town; and 17 sub-offices in Antigua, 10 in St. Kitts-Nevis, 13 in Dominica, 4 in Montserrat, and 4 in the Virgin Islands. There is an annual overseas traffic of about two million letters and postal packages.

The telephone service throughout the islands is of the metallic earth system. In addition to a central exchange in each of the larger islands there are 2 sub-exchanges and 315 subscribers in Antigua; 3 sub-exchanges and 240 subscribers in St. Kitts-Nevis; 5 sub-exchanges and 140 subscribers in Dominica; and 2 sub-exchanges and 56 subscribers in Montserrat. There are also a few miles of telephone service in Anguilla.

The wireless telegraph system (owned by Cable and Wireless, Ltd.), is established at Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica, and a similar one, owned by the Government but operated by the Company in Montserrat.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

British currency is legal tender throughout the Colony, but in the Virgin Islands, where there is no bank and where practically all trade is done with St. Thomas, either American or Danish currency circulates along with British. Government accounts are kept in all the Presidencies in sterling, but in the banks and in many commercial houses the dollar system is used at a standard rate of $4.80 to the £. Barclay's Bank (D.C.O.) has branches at Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica. The Royal Bank of Canada has branches at Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat. These banks pay a Government stamp duty of £62 10s. 0d. per annum each in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis, £25 in Dominica and £15 in Montserrat. Each has a note issue of $5 notes, to the amount of between $30,000 and $60,000 in circulation. They each have a Savings Bank section, which was paying 2½ per cent. interest on deposits in 1935. Government Savings Banks also operate in the principal islands. Amounts to the credit of depositors on which interest is paid at 2½ per cent., on the last day of each of the last five financial years were as follows :—

Government Savings Banks.

	31*st* *December, 1931.* £	31*st* *December, 1932.* £	31*st* *December, 1933.* £	31*st* *December, 1934.* £	31*st* *December, 1935.* £
Antigua	15,341	16,371	16,534	16,968	17,890
St. Kitts-Nevis	4,003	4,077	3,925	4,115	4,375
Dominica	6,585	5,735	5,409	5,056	4,899
Montserrat	605	565	724	627	667
Virgin Islands	1,615	2,005	1,756	1,296	2,587
Total for the Colony	£28,149	28,753	28,348	28,062	30,418

There are no Agricultural Banks, except a small privately-managed one in the Virgin Islands.

Weights and Measures.

Weights and measures are standard Imperial and are periodically examined by Government inspectors.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Colony.

Owing to the general financial depression, practically no extraordinary public works from local funds were undertaken in the Colony during 1935, and the public works recurrent expenditure was kept at a minimum. Certain special public works were, however, continued with funds provided by the Colonial Development Fund, and usually under the supervision of special officers.

Antigua.

Staff.—A Superintendent of Public Works is assisted by two road overseers and a clerk and storekeeper. The Superintendent is also Chairman of the St. John's City Commissioners.

Works undertaken during the year consisted of the usual maintenance of Government buildings, wharves, waterworks and roads. In addition, the new Government Petroleum Warehouse was completed.

Colonial Development Fund works.—Expenditure on the Water scheme was continued during the year from funds made available from the Colonial Development Fund at the end of November, 1934.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Staff.—A Surveyor of Works (who is also Superintendent of telephones), assisted by a clerk, and by an executive officer in Nevis, constitute the principal staff in this Presidency. Nothing much beyond ordinary maintenance work was possible during the year. The improvement in the streets of Basseterre continues to be effected by oiling the surface and making concrete drains and pavements.

Colonial Development Fund works.—The Nevis Land Settlement Scheme continues to make progress.

Dominica.

Staff.—A Colonial Engineer, assisted by two road overseers, and an electrician comprise the senior public works staff here.

Works undertaken.—Extensions and improvements in the Roseau electric light system were carried out.

Colonial Development Fund works.—Work continued on the Portsmouth-Hatton Garden Road, estimated to cost £36,000.

Montserrat.

Staff.—An Inspector of Works and Roads works under the general supervision of the Commissioner. He is also in charge of the telephone system. Repairs to buildings, water pipes, bridges, etc., damaged during the earthquakes of the last three years occupied the officers of the Department during the year.

Colonial Development Fund works.—The extension of the water supply to country villages and the laying of concrete drains in the villages have greatly improved the conditions of life of the labouring and peasant population.

Virgin Islands.

The Commissioner supervises any public works. No work of importance was undertaken in 1935.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The Superior Courts of the Colony are presided over by the Chief Justice or Puisne Judge. Circuit Courts, with a jury of nine, are held three times a year each at Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat, and, as occasion requires, at Tortola. The Attorney-General or the Crown Attorneys have the function of a Grand Jury. A Court of Summary Jurisdiction, without a jury, for civil cases where less than £50 is involved, is held monthly in Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica, and the Virgin Islands, on alternate months in Montserrat, and quarterly in Anguilla. The Commissioners of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands act as Deputy Judges for this purpose. Appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the West Indian Court of Appeal, and from the Summary Courts to the Supreme Court. Magistrates in each Presidency deal with minor cases. In Antigua there are two Magistrates (one being for Barbuda), in St. Kitts-Nevis four, in Dominica three, and in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands one each (the Commissioners). The principal Magistrate in St. Kitts and Dominica is also the Crown Attorney. Appeals from the Magistrates' Courts go to a Judge of the Supreme Court, and in further appeal to the Full Court, which is held twice a year in Antigua and consists of the Chief Justice and Puisne Judge. The time for the payment of fines may be deferred, or they may be paid in instalments.

In each Presidency there are Justices of the Peace, but with very limited powers. Any two may act for a Magistrate, if the latter is an interested party. First offenders are frequently bound over and the assistance of one of the clergy invoked to help the person. Juvenile offenders are usually dealt with at a separate hour of the Court or else in the Magistrate's room.

The following table shows the number of convictions for various crimes and offences for the last four years :—

—	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
Summary convictions:—				
1. Offences against the person ...	1,218	1,487	1,253	1,138
2. Praedial larceny	347	406	403	513
3. Malicious injuries to property ...	56	131	36	40
Offences against property (other than praedial larceny and malicious injuries to property)	327	824	310	291
4. Other crimes	—	—	1,445	1,997
Offences against the Masters and Servants Act, including Acts relative to Indentured Coolies	81	158	62	81
Offences against Revenue Laws, Municipal, Road and other Laws relating to the social economy of the Colony ...	1,657	2,643	2,578	2,731
Miscellaneous minor offences ...	4,011	3,306	3 019	2,883
Totals	7,697	8,955	9,106	9,674
Convictions in the Superior Courts:—				
1. Murder of wife or concubine ...	—	—	—	—
Murder of child	—	—	2	—
Murder other than wife, concubine or child	2	1	5	—
Manslaughter	—	1	1	1
Attempted Murder	—	—	—	—
Rape	1	2	—	4
Unnatural crime	—	—	—	—
Other Offences against the person	14	9	18	24
3. Praedial larceny	1	5	3	7
4. Offences against property with violence to the person ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences against property...	34	23	42	31
5. Other crimes	—	3	13	15
Total	52	44	84	82

Police.

The Police Force is a Federal one and consists of two Inspectors, four Sub-Inspectors, and 148 N.C.Os. and men, all under the command of a Chief Inspector who has his headquarters at Antigua. An Inspector and a Sub-Inspector are usually stationed in Dominica, and in St. Kitts-Nevis. In Montserrat there is a Sub-Inspector. The Chief Inspector of Police is also Commandant of the Defence Forces of the Colony, and the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors hold rank therein as Captains and Lieutenants respectively.

The period of first enlistment and re-engagement for N.C.Os. and men is three years. All men take part in musketry training and ambulance work in addition to their ordinary police duties. There are also 347 local constables enrolled, who can be called upon when required for extra assistance in the country districts.

Prisons.

The central prison for the Colony is at St. John's, Antigua, and is under the charge of the Chief Keeper of Prisons (a retired Naval Commander). It has accommodation for 80 males and 47 females, and is staffed by a head warder, a matron, 9 warders and one wardress. £1,038 was expended on personal emoluments during the year. Instruction is given to the male prisoners in carpentry, tin-smithing, baking, and to the females in laundry and sewing. Elementary education is voluntarily given to some of the more illiterate prisoners by certain members of the Toc. H. Association, and the Prison Chaplain gives instruction in religion. Prisoners are also employed within the prison on stone-breaking, cleaning, etc., and certain of the male prisoners outside on road-work, in the Botanic gardens, pauper cemetery, and other public institutions. The prison bakery made over 30,000 lb. of bread during the year, supplying both the Prison and the Reformatory Training School.

186 males and 31 females were committed during the year, 12 males and 2 females coming from other Presidencies. The daily average was 22 males and 3 females. One prisoner escaped during the year, and was recaptured after about 2 weeks. There are 72 individual cells for males and 20 for females; and 1 association cell for 5 males, and 3 to hold 3 each for females. There is an average of 1,370 cubic feet of cell space per prisoner. There is also an infirmary on the male side to hold 9 and another on the female side to hold 3. The Prison Medical Officer pays daily visits. Prisoners who are seriously ill are treated under suitable precautions at the island hospital. There are 10 Visiting Justices to the Prison, who hold periodical meetings there to enquire into complaints and to consider questions of prison discipline. The boys' Reformatory School has already been referred to in the chapter on Education.

Numbers of male prisoners.

Daily average in Prisons of the Colony for five years.

	1931.	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
Antigua (Central Prison)...	**97**	**79**	**51**	**24**	**22**
St. Kitts-Nevis	**26**	**27**	**41**	**48**	**64**
Dominica	**25**	**20**	**36**	**49**	**55**
Montserrat	**7**	**8**	**10**	**8**	**7**
Virgin Islands	—	—	—	—	—
Total	**155**	**134**	**138**	**129**	**148**

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The prison is at Basseterre and consists of a group of stone buildings surrounded by a 14 ft. wall. On the male side there are 16 cells of 18 ft. by 10 ft. each, and on the female side 10 cells of about the same size. The average cubic foot space per prisoner is 1,418 ft.

422 males and 180 females were committed during the year, mostly on short sentences. The staff consisted of a Keeper and 6 male warders and a matron and a wardress at a cost of £557. Prisoners are taught and employed in the same manner as at Antigua, and sick prisoners are dealt with in similar fashion.

Dominica.

The prison is at Roseau, and consists of a group of stone buildings enclosed by a high stone wall. There are 20 cells for males and 8 for females, with an average cubic space per prisoner of 1,452 ft.

366 males and 148 females were committed during the year, mostly on short sentences. The staff consisted of a keeper, 6 male warders, a matron, and one wardress, at a cost of £525. Prisoners are taught and employed in the same manner as at Antigua, and sick prisoners are dealt with in similar fashion.

Montserrat.

The prison at Plymouth is stone-built, small but sufficient for requirements. There are 8 cells for males and 3 for females, with an average cubic space per prisoner of 1,266 ft. 89 males and 22 females were committed during the year. The staff consisted of a keeper, a male warder, and a matron, at a cost of £157. Male prisoners with sentences over six months and females with sentences of over two months are transferred to the Antigua Prison. Owing to damage to buildings by earthquakes an additional warder is employed temporarily for night duty.

Virgin Islands.

The prison at Tortola is a large stone building more than sufficient for the needs of the Presidency. Only 6 prisoners were committed during the year. The staff consisted of a keeper, who is also the Corporal of Police, and a matron, at a cost of £14.

All the prisons of the Colony are kept scrupulously clean, and in St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat the Inspectors of Police have supervising powers as officers-in-charge of prison discipline.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Colony.

The annual session of the General Legislative Council, opened on 2nd March, 1935, 8 amendments to existing Acts and 2 Appropriation Acts were passed. New legislation consisted of the Protection of Animals Act, 1935. Legislation regarding workmen's compensation is still under consideration. Twenty-four Statutory Rules and Orders were made under Federal Acts during the year. Most of them dealt with minor matters of administration.

Antigua.

There were 5 sessions of the Legislative Council during the year and 14 Ordinances were passed, 10 being amendments of existing Ordinances, and the remainder minor financial or administrative legislation with the exception of the Fisheries Ordinance, 1935. Twelve Statutory Rules and Orders were made, the most important dealing with Textile Quotas, as was the case in each Presidency.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Fourteen Ordinances (10 being amending ones) and 9 Statutory Rules and Orders became law during the year. The Cotton Export Ordinance, 1935, to regulate cotton exports was the most important ordinance.

Dominica.

Eleven Ordinances (six being amending ones) were passed. The most important was the Medical and Sanitary Services Ordinance to regulate these services. Seventeen Statutory Rules and Orders were made.

Montserrat.

Seven Ordinances (5 amending ones) were passed. Thirteen Statutory Rules and Orders were made.

Virgin Islands.

Seven Ordinances were made, mostly concerning alterations in taxation, and 5 Statutory Rules and Orders.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The following is a comparative table of the local revenue and expenditure of the Colony as a whole and its five component Presidencies for the past five financial years, excluding the financial period April-December, 1931, when a change to the calendar system took place.

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Montserrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*	*Leeward Islands Colony.*
1930–31.						
Revenue	**73,730**	90,604	63,440	**25,176**	**5,707**	**258,657**
Expenditure ...	**91,351**	97,659	71,178	**28,805**	**7,027**	**296,020**
Surplus or Deficit ...	**−17,621**	−7,055	**−7,738**	**−3,629**	−1,320	**−37,363**
1932.						
Revenue	73,223	80,963	52,380	19,344	5,723	231,633
Expenditure ...	82,512	84,250	68,278	23,961	6,420	265,421
Surplus or Deficit ...	−9,289	−3,287	−15,898	−4,617	−697	−33,788
1933.						
Revenue	88,061	91,714	57,207	17,564	4,485	259,031
Expenditure ...	81,006	82,896	64,360	26,763	6,782	261,807
Surplus or Deficit ...	+7,055	+8,818	−7,153	−9,199	−2,297	−2,776
1934.						
Revenue	80,620	101,847	52,332	18,189	4,531	257,519
Expenditure ...	80,351	86,497	63,837	22,750	5,874	259,309
Surplus or Deficit ...	+269	+15,350	−11,505	−4,561	−1,343	−1,790
1935.						
Revenue	83,846	101,595	51,846	29,140	7,328	273,755
Expenditure ...	85,420	92,189	62,896	25,927	5,881	272,313
Surplus or Deficit ...	−1,574	+9,406	−11,050	+3,213	+1,447	+1,442

The following assistance was afforded to the Colony from Imperial Funds during the year :—

Antigua—	
Loan for construction of new petroleum warehouse	665
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes	10,130
St. Kitts-Nevis—	
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes	1,046
Dominica—	
Loan in aid of administration	—
,, ,, ,, ,, Agriculture, etc.	4,174
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes	5,196
Montserrat—	
Loan in aid of administration	500
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes	400

The Public Debts and Sinking Funds of the Colony as at 31st December, 1935, were as follows:—

	Total Debt.	*Sinking Fund (Market value).*
	£	£
Antigua	54,500	29,084
St. Kitts-Nevis	40,500	28,553
Dominica	6,000	1,083
Montserrat	3,000	2,199
Virgin Islands	Nil	Nil
Total	£104,000	£60,919

The main heads of taxation and their yields were approximately as follows:—

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Montserrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Customs	**43,568**	**50,943**	**24,933**	**15,778**	**1,860**	**137,082**
Harbour, etc., dues ...	**1,609**	**10,575**	**2,651**	**471**	**33**	**15,339**
Internal Revenue ...	**20,955**	**25,445**	**12,522**	**3,989**	**1,105**	**64,013**
Fees	**6,587**	**3,262**	**3,517**	**3,802**	**379**	**17,547**
Post Office Telephones, Light, etc.	**10,244**	**9,486**	**7,718**	**4,380**	**3,553**	**35,381**
Miscellaneous... ...	**883**	**1,887**	**505**	**720**	**398**	**4,393**

The Customs Tariff is arranged on either an *ad valorem* or a specific basis. The *ad valorem* rate is mainly on manufactured articles and is usually 10 per cent. British preferential and 15 per cent. general. As a result of the Ottawa Conference, certain improvements in favour of Empire goods were made in the tariffs throughout the Colony. Quotas were established for foreign textiles in 1934. Excise duties are leviable on locally made spirits or tobacco in such Presidencies as make them. Stamp duties are governed by Federal Statutes and are uniform throughout the Colony. There is no hut or poll tax. Receipts from sales of stamps in the Colony totalled £25,220 in 1935 owing to the Silver Jubilee issue. The receipts for 1934 were £6,857.

APPENDIX.

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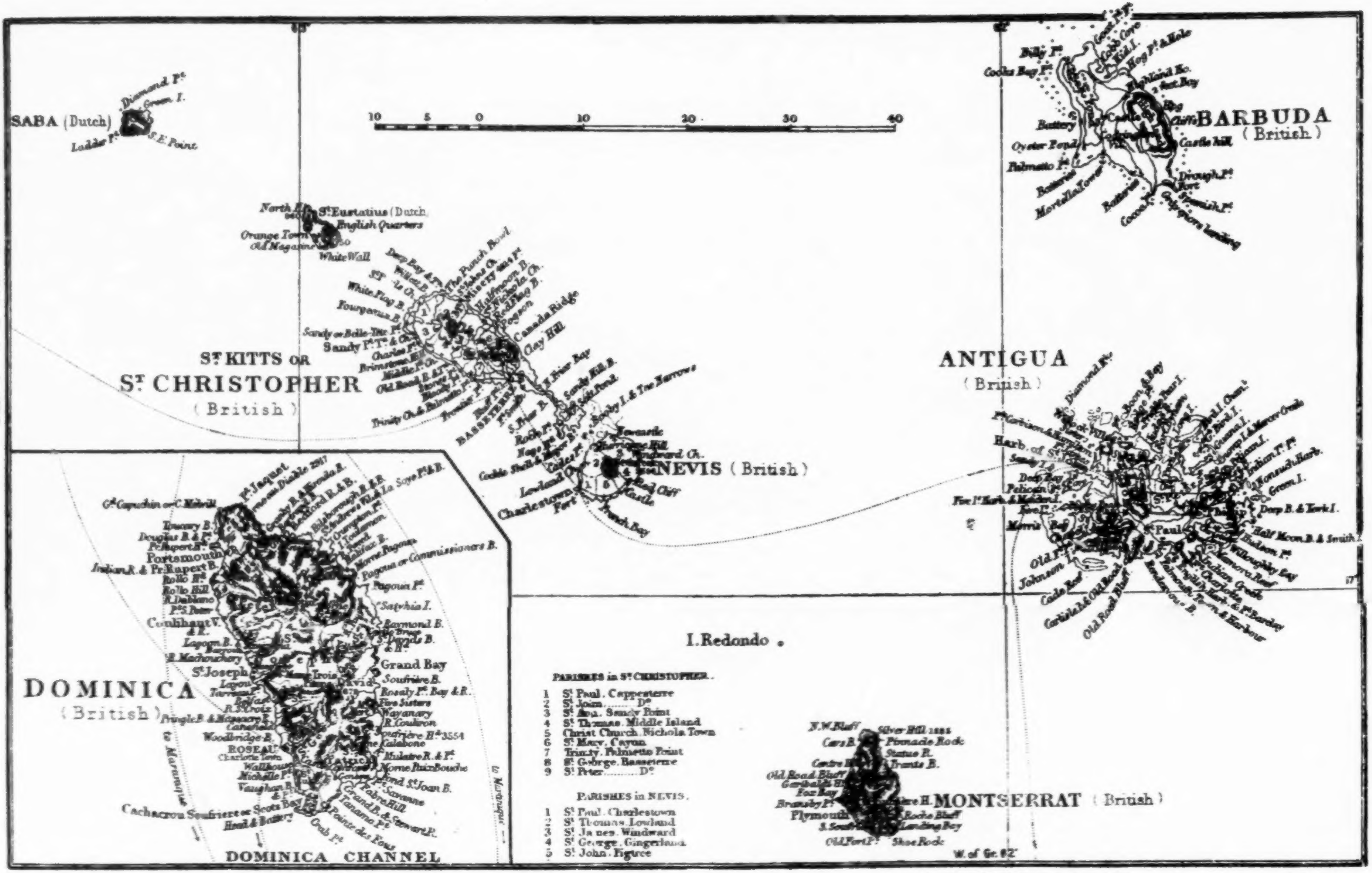
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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR 1936.

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Colony of the Leeward Islands, with a total area of 726 square miles, consists of a number of islands belonging partly to the Lesser Antilles and partly to the Greater Antilles. Antigua, Barbuda, St. Christopher (St. Kitts), Nevis, and Montserrat lie between West longitude 61° and 63°, and around North latitude 17°, but Dominica is about 100 miles to the south, separated by the French island of Guadeloupe from the rest. The Virgin Islands, Sombrero, and Anguilla on the other hand lie some distance away to the north-west. The Virgin Islands, St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat, and Dominica are mostly volcanic in origin with mountains rising to 1,780, 3,711, 3,596, 3,002, and 4,750 feet respectively, while Antigua, Barbuda, and Anguilla are sedimentary and are subject to drought.

All the islands are refreshed by the cooling trade winds, though Dominica, with its heavy intervening mountain system, becomes hot and steamy at certain times of the year. The rainfall registered at the different Botanic Stations during 1936 was as follows:—Antigua 74 inches, St. Kitts 59 inches, Dominica 89 inches, Montserrat 65 inches, Virgin Islands 66 inches. The mean temperature was 79° F.

Politically the Colony is divided into five Presidencies:—(*a*) Antigua, with Barbuda and Redonda, (*b*) St. Christopher-Nevis, with Anguilla, (*c*) Dominica, (*d*) Montserrat, and (*e*) the British Virgin Islands (which are in close proximity to the American Virgin Islands). These five Presidencies have been united and separated at various times in their history, and were finally federated in 1871 by an Imperial Act.

From a historical point of view the Leeward Islands Colony is one of the most interesting in the Empire.

St. Kitts was the first island in the West Indies to be systematically colonized by the English, Sir Thomas Warner, captain of the King's Body Guard, bringing out a number of farmers and artisans for that purpose in 1623. In 1666, 1689, and 1782 it was captured by the French, and in the latter year the famous defence of Brimstone Hill took place, a gallant action which ultimately enabled Rodney to defeat the French fleet at " The Saints " near Dominica and save the then Colonial Empire.

In Nevis, in 1787, Nelson, then aged 25, and acting as Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands Naval Station, married the young widow Nisbet, who survived him. In 1757 Alexander Hamilton, the son of a Scottish planter and the founder of the American Constitution, was born in Nevis.

Antigua is the headquarters of the Colony and the residence of the Governor. The island was settled by Sir Thomas Warner's son in 1632, and only once, in 1666, was it captured by the French. At Antigua is the historic old Naval Dockyard, first built in 1725, where Nelson lived between 1785 and 1787. It lies in a romantic narrow inlet, English Harbour, and is to-day just as it was left when the last of the old frigates was warped out. Efforts are now being made to preserve the ruined buildings so that it may be an Empire memorial to the Navy.

Dominica was originally declared as neutral territory between the French and English, but became English by the Treaty of Paris in 1763. In 1771 it was made a separate Colony, but was rejoined to the Leeward Islands in 1832. During that period, however, it was captured and held by the French for five years until restored to England by the Treaty of Versailles in 1783.

In 1805 the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (the old 46th) and the local militia distinguished themselves in a gallant resistance to General La Grange and a great invading force.

Montserrat was settled by Sir Thomas Warner in 1632, but was captured (and subsequently restored) by the French in 1666 and 1782.

The Virgin Islands were first settled by Dutch farmers, who became buccaneers in 1648. English buccaneers drove them out in 1666, and in 1672 the islands were absorbed into the Leeward Islands Colony. For a long time the islands were the haunts of pirates.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

There is one Governor of the Colony, and his representatives in the Presidencies of St. Christopher-Nevis and Dominica are styled Administrators, and in those of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, Commissioners.

The Colony possesses a Federal Executive and a General Legislative Council, the members of the former and the official members of the latter being appointed by the Crown, while the unofficial members of the latter (three each from Antigua and St. Christopher-Nevis, two from Dominica, and one from Montserrat) are elected by and from the nominated unofficial members of the Legislatures of their respective Presidencies. There is also a nominated unofficial member for the Virgin Islands on the General Legislative Council.

Each Presidency has an Executive and a Legislative Council, with the exception of the Virgin Islands, which has an Executive Council only. The Presidential Legislative Councils have concurrent legislative powers with the General Legislative Council on specified subjects so far as their "Ordinances" are not repugnant to the "Acts" of the latter. The duration of each Legislative Council is limited to three years.

The Antigua Legislative Council, previously partly elected and partly nominated, passed an Act in 1898 abrogating itself and substituting the Crown Colony system.

The St. Kitts and Nevis forms of Legislative Council, partly elected and partly nominated, were abolished by an Act of 1878, and the Crown Colony system substituted.

The Dominica Legislative Council, like that in Antigua, was changed in 1898, but in 1924 an Ordinance was passed allowing for the election of four of the unofficial members.

The Montserrat Legislative Council was similarly changed in 1866.

There has been no Legislative Council in the Virgin Islands since 1902.

In 1936 steps were taken to reconstitute the Presidential Legislative Councils with unofficial majorities, and with partly elected and partly nominated unofficial members. The reconstituted Legislative Councils will come into being in 1937.

Municipal Government.—In Antigua (St. John's) there is a (partly unofficial) municipal body called the "City Commissioners"; in Dominica there is a partly elected Town Council at Roseau, and a nominated Town Board at Portsmouth.

III.—POPULATION.

The estimated population on 31st December, 1936, was as follows:—

		Area (Sq. miles).	*Principal Town (approximate population).*
Antigua	33,202	108	St. John's (10,000).
Barbuda	1,028	62	—
St. Kitts	18,395	68	Basseterre (8,000).
Nevis	13,542	50	Charlestown (1,200).
Anguilla	5,517	34	—
Dominica	48,280	305	Roseau (8,000).
Montserrat	13,630	32	Plymouth (2,000).
Virgin Islands ...	6,165	67	Road Town (400).
Total	139,759	726	

The decennial census of 1931 was not taken in view of the financial condition of the Colony in that year, but the percentages of the different races at the time of the previous census were as stated below, and, although the population has now generally increased, it is probable that the proportions are about the same.

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Montserrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*
White ...	4	3	1½	1	1
Coloured ...	13	16	31½	21	23
Black ...	83	81	67	78	76

The birth and death rates per 1,000 in 1936 were as follows:—

	Birth-rate.	*Death-rate.*
Antigua	42·86	23·42
Barbuda	36·54	23·26
St. Kitts	44·40	33·20
Nevis	23·60	14·50
Anguilla	24·80	15·40
Dominica	31·58	13·71
Montserrat	39·32	14·90
Virgin Islands	31·00	14·70

Infantile mortality for the past five years has been as follows:—

	1932.	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
Antigua and Barbuda ...	93	175	125	105	111
St. Kitts	167	180	229	200	190
Nevis	102	73	104	204	241
Anguilla	53	76	116	99	182
Dominica	88	126	107	97	100
Montserrat	89	134	94	130	120
Virgin Islands ...	136	165	69	109	140

The emigration and immigration figures of the Colony about balance during recent years. Before the embargo on free emigration to the United States, Cuba, and Puerto Rico, the emigration figures considerably outnumbered those of immigration. There is still a certain amount of emigration for work

on the sugar estates in the Dominican Republic, but it is seasonal, and the men usually return the same year. The Government of Panama is repatriating British West Indian labourers at its expense.

IV.—HEALTH.

General.

The Colony, which from November to May is only semi-tropical, is gradually becoming known as a health resort, and more visitors are coming yearly, especially during the winter months, from the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States of America.

Hospitals are established in the principal centres, and there are 25 Government Medical Officers stationed throughout the Colony. There is also a system of village dispensaries. Water supplies in most of the islands are good and plentiful. Legislation regarding bakeries and dairies is in force, and the meat markets are regularly inspected. The ordinary diseases found in tropical countries prevail, but not usually in a serious form. Cases of ankylostomiasis, filariasis, dysentery, malaria, tuberculosis, venereal diseases, and yaws, are found in varying numbers.

There is a central lunatic asylum (175 patients) at Antigua, and leper homes at Antigua (32 patients) and St. Kitts (47 patients).

The teeth of the school children in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis have been receiving special care from dentists subsidized by the Government. Homes for the aged and infirm are now established in Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica and Montserrat.

Antigua.

Public health work started by General Barrow has been continued on the lines initiated by him. The bacteriological laboratory, which was part of the scheme, has been found most useful. There were 3,181 examinations made, 2,041 of which were blood films for malaria, 496 Kahn tests, 199 differential blood counts, 32 Widal tests, and various other tests.

Venereal diseases are treated by Medical Officers in their offices and at dispensaries situated throughout the island.

Infant Welfare is arranged for at the central crêche (a voluntary organization) in St. John's and at three Government crêches in the villages of All Saints, Bolans, and Cedar Grove. These crêches are usually full. Free dental inspection and treatment at the Government schools has been continued and is a very valuable adjunct to the child welfare of the community.

Mortality and Disease.—There were 1,237 births and 676 deaths during the year. There was an increase in malaria owing to the abnormal amount of rain, which commenced in May and amounted to 74 inches. There were approximately 3,459 cases of this disease during the year, mostly of the subtertian type, with 40 deaths in all. There were some cerebral cases, and two of blackwater fever. Six sanitary inspectors are engaged to superintend the cleaning up and drainage in the villages. Stagnant water is treated with Paris green or oil. Quinine is distributed without charge when funds permit.

Hospital.—There is a hospital with an X-ray room and 91 beds. There were 488 males and 444 females admitted during the year. The average period spent in hospital was 24 days for males, and 19 days for females.

There were 115 deaths, 60 males and 55 females. The number of major operations was 118, and minor operations 288. There were 40 ophthalmic cases and 10 cases of eclampsia. A start was made in rebuilding the men's surgical ward.

Home for the aged and infirm (Fiennes Institute).—54 males and 49 females were admitted. There were 65 deaths, chiefly from diseases incidental to old age.

Dispensaries.—There are now 13 Government dispensaries in Antigua and one in Barbuda. There are 25 Government district nurses, who are also midwives.

There is a quarantine station and, as already mentioned, a leper home and a lunatic asylum, the latter being a Federal institution.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The general health of the Presidency is good.

Malaria fever occurs in Nevis, where the anopheles mosquito is found, principally in the bog lands adjoining Charlestown, and to a lesser degree in the small water-courses on the northern side of the island. In Anguilla the cases seen are among those labourers who have returned from Santo Domingo. Cases seen in St. Kitts are all imported. Anophelene mosquitoes have not been detected in St. Kitts.

Infant welfare.—Infant welfare work progresses. Since the movement was started and crêches under the supervision of the District Matron were provided, infant mortality in St. Kitts has decreased from 409·6 per 1,000 living births in 1920, to 189·97 in 1936.

Hospitals.—The central hospital at Basseterre, St. Kitts, has 87 beds and 5 maternity beds. Other hospitals are at Sandy Point, St. Kitts (16 beds), Nevis (between 30 and 40 beds) and Anguilla (8 beds). There are homes for the aged and the infirm at Basseterre (50 beds) and at Nevis (12 beds). The leper home in the Sandy Point district has 46 inmates.

Staff.—The Presidency is divided into seven medical districts (St. Kitts four, Nevis two, and Anguilla one). There are three European nursing sisters in the Presidency, one of whom is District Matron and trains pupil midwives. There are eight Sanitary Inspectors working under the supervision of the Senior Medical Officer. Dental clinics are held regularly by the Government Dental Officer, and the attention to the teeth of the elementary school children should produce results, in the years to come, in the general health of the people. Dispensaries are established in different parts of the medical districts.

Dominica.

The Chief Medical and Health Officer is in general charge of all matters concerned with public health.

Infant Welfare.—The Roseau and the St. John's Child Welfare Committees maintained their special clinics during 1936. These are voluntary committees in receipt of Government grants. The Roseau Clinic is held in the out-patients' department of the Roseau Hospital and is directed by the Matron. The St. John's Clinic serves the town and district of Portsmouth. At the beginning of March, 1936, a third infant welfare centre was inaugurated at Marigot under the auspices of the Marigot Village Board and has been well supported. The total number of children under three years of age on the registers of those three centres during 1936 was 342.

Sanitation.—The sanitation of the towns of Roseau and Portsmouth has continued under the control of the Roseau Town Council and the Portsmouth Town Board, respectively, with their own sanitary officers. Under the Medical and Sanitary Services Ordinance, 1935 (No. 9 of 1935), the Central Board of Health has powers to make regulations for the rest of the island with respect to various matters of public health, and the sanitary organization includes ten sanitary inspectors for the most important districts. Special efforts have been directed against ankylostomiasis, malaria, tuberculosis and yaws.

Mortality and Disease.—The birth-rate of 31·58 for 1936 was below the average for the five-year period 1931-1935, which was 32·74. The death-rate of 13·71 is the lowest recorded, and well below the average for the previous five years, which was 16·43. The infant mortality rate of 99·6 also compares favourably with an average of 117·77 for the previous five years. Deaths at all ages from all forms of tuberculosis numbered 52, out of a total of 654 deaths from all causes. Malaria, which is endemic, was less prevalent than in recent years and accounted for 31 deaths. Deaths from diarrhœa and enteritis numbered 43. Each of these figures represents a reduction in mortality as compared with previous years, and 1936 may be accounted a very healthy year for the island.

Hospitals.—There is a Central Hospital at Roseau with 100 beds; admissions in 1936 numbered 1,445. Country hospitals are maintained at Portsmouth (33 beds), Marigot (6 beds), and Grand Bay (4 beds), with respectively 586, 119 and 120 admissions during the year. At Roseau there is also a home for the aged and infirm with accommodation for about 30 inmates. Eighteen dispensaries are maintained in the four medical districts.

Staff.—There are four District Medical Officers under the Chief Medical Officer. Six dispensers (including two who are the stewards of the Roseau and Portsmouth Hospitals) assist the Medical Officers. The training of nurses and midwives is under the supervision of the European Matron of the Roseau Hospital. In addition to 22 native nurses on the staffs of the hospitals, eight nurse-midwives are employed in the districts.

Montserrat.

The general health of the population was not as good as in the previous year, and the death-rate was slightly higher, 14·80 per 1,000.

There was an epidemic of measles (morbilli) during the months of May, June, and July. Children of school age and under were chiefly affected, and during the height of the epidemic it was considered advisable to close the elementary schools. The cases, however, were for the most part mild in character, and although respiratory complications were common there were no deaths.

Gastro-enteritis accounted for many deaths among young children during the year, and during the last quarter of the year an epidemic of influenza, with a marked tendency to broncho-pneumonia, took quite a toll of infants and young children.

The Glendon Hospital moved from the earthquake-damaged building into temporary wooden quarters in March, 1936, and in spite of limited accommodation 434 patients were treated during the year.

Among special diseases may be mentioned:—

Typhoid and Paratyphoid.—One case developed during the year in a young boy, after his arrival from a neighbouring island. The case was promptly isolated and no further cases developed. No case of typhoid has developed as a result of infection within this island for the past two years.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—Four deaths were recorded during the year, one in the parish of St. Anthony and three in the parish of St. George. The cases were chiefly of the fibroid type.

Yaws and Syphilis.—These diseases continued to show a decrease, and the cases presenting themselves for treatment were followed up closely and given adequate treatment.

Virgin Islands.

The health of the Presidency has been generally satisfactory. In the month of June after a prolonged drought a severe epidemic of dysentery broke out which mainly affected the West End district of Tortola and the neighbouring island of Jost Van Dykes. Malaria is on the wane, and is not of a severe type. There were only three cases of typhoid, with one death. During the year there were 218 admissions to the hospital with five deaths, and there were 53 deliveries without any maternal or infant deaths.

Staff.—The medical staff of the Presidency consists of one medical officer, one European nursing sister and one sanitary officer in Tortola and one dispenser at Anegada Island.

V.—HOUSING.

Antigua.

The Housing Scheme, financed originally from the Colonial Development Fund, has improved the type of house used by the poorer classes and with it goes improvement in living conditions of the people. The houses are mainly of standard type and consist of three rooms and a verandah, with a separate latrine and kitchen. The houses are very sanitary and easily disinfected. The demand for houses in the model village was not maintained in 1936. In addition to the model village, similar houses under the same scheme have been erected on the Antigua land settlement area at Greencastle, at the village of All Saints, and at other places. One of the most valuable aspects of the scheme is that it is proving an encouragement and an incentive to others of the artisan and peasant class to build new houses for themselves and a much improved type of house is appearing in many parts of the island.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Some estates provide a few wooden houses free of rent to their more reliable labourers.

A scheme for improving housing conditions in Basseterre and Sandy Point was commenced late in 1930, and up to the present 61 model concrete houses have been built for labourers and artisans, 45 at Basseterre and 16 at Sandy Point.

This scheme was made possible by assistance from the Colonial Development Fund which took the form of a free grant of £6,500 and a loan of a similar sum, free of interest for five years. A total sum of £8,126 6s. 2d. has so far been spent. Further construction is in abeyance pending reconsideration of the type of house and its cost and conditions of sale.

The cottages consist of three rooms and an entrance verandah. The cost of each cottage, including outbuildings and fences, but excluding land, is £122.

The larger residences and places of business are of two storeys, the lower, generally speaking, of stone and the upper of wood. These buildings are provided with hurricane shutters as the islands are almost in the centre of the hurricane zone.

Dominica.

The commonest type of dwelling-house used by the wage-earning population is a single storey wooden structure, usually elevated from the ground by a few stones or wooden supports about a foot high. The roof is made of shingles or corrugated iron except in a few areas where the poorer houses are thatched. The interior may be divided into two or three compartments by wooden partitions; a door and two or three windows with shutters communicate with the exterior. The size of the building varies from 10 ft. by 8 ft. by 8 ft. to 20 ft. by 16 ft. by 10 ft. On an average about five persons occupy each of these dwelling-houses.

In the two towns, Roseau and Portsmouth, many of the lots are owned by landlords who erect houses thereon and let them at a weekly rental of 1s. 6d. per room, i.e., 3s. to 4s. 6d. per house; or they may let small areas for building. In the country districts the occupant more often has built his own house of native lumber, on a portion of land purchased by himself. The building is done with the help of his neighbours and at a very small cost since skilled labour is not employed.

The dwelling-house may or may not be provided with a roughly-made kitchen adjoining it, or the cooking may be done in the open. Water is obtained from the nearest standpipe, river or stream. Sanitary conveniences are often entirely lacking, the inhabitants depending on communal latrines where such are provided by the Government, or on common dumping grounds often in close proximity to houses. The great defect in the housing accommodation lies not in the house itself but in the surroundings and in the lack of sanitation. There is marked congestion, especially in the towns and villages of the Leeward coast, caused by the absence of town or village-planning. Overcrowding and lack of ventilation favour the spread of tuberculosis and other infectious diseases.

In Roseau and Portsmouth, by-laws compel intending builders to obtain permission from the Town Council or Town Wardens. The Roseau Town Council passed a new Buildings By-Law in 1933 repealing the Buildings By-Law, 1899, and making more stringent the conditions which have to be complied with in the erection of any new building. Among its new provisions may be mentioned the following:—the minimum frontage of any new building facing a street or other public place is increased from 16 to 21 feet, definite spaces are required to be left between the buildings and the boundaries of the site; a minimum floor area of 120 square feet is laid down for any living room in a dwelling-house; provision of latrine accommodation of a type approved by the Council is made compulsory for every new building intended to be used as a dwelling-house, shop, factory or place of business. Provision is also made for the evacuation of any dwelling-house, which the Medical Officer of Health represents to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.

In the country districts there is no legislation in force governing buildings; a few of the larger estates provide dwelling-houses for a certain number of their labourers, but this practice has largely died out. There are no building societies in existence.

Montserrat.

Many new buildings of reinforced concrete or wood have replaced the old earthquake-damaged buildings and many others are being built. Nearly all new buildings are provided with sanitary water closets and septic tanks.

One house only was built during the year under the Colonial Development Concrete Housing Scheme. This is largely due to the inability of applicants to produce the necessary certificate of title for the lands on which it is proposed to build these houses.

Virgin Islands.

The housing conditions in the British Virgin Islands, while possibly not ideal, are considerably better than those prevailing elsewhere in the Leeward Islands. The average house of the peasant is a sturdy wooden building measuring about 20 ft. by 15 ft. with an acre or more of arable land. The present living conditions seem admirably suited to the population which consists almost entirely of small landowners and fishermen. The wage-earning population is very small, being practically restricted to the limits of the town of Road Town in Tortola. Sanitary conditions are satisfactory and general health is good. A local Board of Health controls the general health and sanitation.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Sugar, cotton, limes and lime products, oranges, grapefruit, bananas, cocoa and table vegetables are the chief products of the Colony. The following table summarises the principal exports of local produce of the whole colony for the year 1936 compared with the previous year:—

		1935.		*1936.*	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£		£
Avocado pears	crates	3,726	744	5,158	1,171
Bananas	bunches	71,527	5,780	104,041	8,597
Bay oil	lb.	16,474	2,421	21,287	3,230
Cattle	...	1,500	4,400	1,583	5,369
Cocoa	lb.	344,156	3,459	354,578	4,168
Coconuts	No.	314,720	627	774,084	2,199
Copra	lb.	283,833	1,084	319,076	1,702
Cotton	lb.	1,232,975	66,495	1,138,055	75,245
Cotton seed	tons	455	1,625	600	1,973
Grapefruit	crates	5,386	2,596	3,038	1,586
Lime juice, raw	gal.	134,761	5,724	140,610	5,757
Lime oil, distilled	lb.	7,457	7,789	10,500	11,729
Lime oil, ecuelled	lb.	1,940	2,149	1,800	2,045
Limes, green	brls. & crates	8,813	8,040	6,500	6,203
Mangoes	brls.	3,462	1,363	8,616	3,164
Molasses	gal.	816,549	10,307	1,152,391	11,930
Oranges	brls. & crates	8,850	5,773	10,786	7,319
Rum	gal.	12,187	1,721	9,515	1,359
Salt	tons	1,400	2,188	2,000	3,190
Sugar	tons	43,352	388,213	46,651	417,199
Tobacco (leaf)	lb.	5,823	249	4,242	205
Tomatoes	crates	18,334	2,733	68,000	7,113

Antigua.

There are two modern sugar factories, one at Gunthorpes, owned by the Antigua Sugar Factory Company (Henckel, Dubuisson and Company), and one at Bendals owned by the South Western Estates Company. The capacity of the former is approximately 22,000 tons and that of the latter 4,000 tons.

The average rainfall in 1935 was only 38·31 ins. but it was well distributed and the 1936 sugar crop amounted to 20,886 tons grey crystals and 300 tons muscovado. Sugar exports amounted to 19,759 tons crystals valued at £180,240 and 100 tons muscovado valued at £1,053 together with 536,177 gallons of vacuum pan molasses valued at £3,351 and 44,955 gallons of muscovado molasses valued at £1,980.

The average yield of canes per acre was rather better than was the case in 1935, viz., 16·3 instead of 15 tons.

The Antigua Sugar Factory paid 14s. 5·9d. per ton for canes for the 1936 crop and the Bendals Factory 14s. per ton.

During the year a loan was obtained from the Colonial Development Fund to cover the cost of certain extensions of the railway systems of the two factories. These extensions, one of which will be completed early in the 1937 crop, will be of great assistance, especially to peasants, many of whom cultivate land far removed from the present railway lines and are faced with uneconomic transportation costs.

The 1936 cotton crop was reaped from 612 acres: the total production was 113,180 lb. clean lint and 4,595 lb. stains. The crop was sold at prices varying from 1s. 5½d. to 1s. 10d. per lb. for clean lint.

The area planted for the 1936-7 crop was about 950 acres. Germination was fair but most fields suffered badly from the very heavy rains early in November and in the latter half of December, while the cotton caterpillar did considerable damage in many districts.

The Government Land Settlement Schemes continue to develop. During 1936 the Agricultural Department marketed on behalf of the allottees 5,127 tons of cane valued at £3,575.

Sugar cane experiments were continued during 1936: definite results are now being obtained and it is hoped that in a few years time the application of these results to general agricultural practice will lead to economic increases on yield throughout the island.

Further investigations are being conducted by Mr. H. E. Box on the control of the moth borer of sugar cane.

During 1936 a step was taken to further the interests of peasant cultivators through the establishment of a branch of the Agricultural Department devoted especially to the development of peasant industries, particularly cotton and vegetables.

The following table shows the relative exports of the principal products of Antigua over a period of five years:—

	1932.	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
Sugar (ton)	19,168	23,875	20,677	16,072	19,759
,, (value) ... ...£	182,116	234,920	196,534	151,249	181,293
,, acreage of cane reaped ...	7,936	9,450	9,686	9,800	12,800
Molasses (gal.)	757,701	520,232	808,459	324,562	536,177
,, (value) ...£	12,782	1,084	2,515	2,188	3,351
Cotton (lb.)	22,500	8,400	9,600	32,950	117,380
,, (value) ... ...£	936	420	480	2,062	8,988
Lime juice, raw (gal.) ...	1,280	9,189	3,712	6,916	6,106
,, ,, ,, (value) £	75	557	142	305	154
Tamarinds (barrels) ...	520	495	152	461	522
,, (value) ...£	456	427	93	295	522
Rum (gal.)	—	—	851	2,008	6,425
,, (value) ... ...£	—	—	133	293	935

St. Kitts-Nevis.

There is one central modern sugar factory, owned by the Basseterre Sugar Factory Company (Henckel, Dubuisson Co.), of an original capacity of approximately 20,000 tons, which has since been considerably increased. It is connected to the various sugar estates by a narrow-gauge railway encircling the island. 28,174 tons of crystal sugar, of approximately 96 degrees polarization, were made. The area under cane was about 8,500 acres, giving an average yield of over 25 tons to the acre.

Recently the planters have made serious efforts to increase the yields of cane by the introduction of parasites for the control of insect pests, and by an extended use of artificial fertilizers.

All estates have a certain number of contract labourers, who live in estate houses and receive free medical attention and a free plot of land for growing ground provisions and vegetables.

Two thousand four hundred and twenty-nine tons of canes were sold to the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory by Nevis planters. Small quantities of muscovado sugar and fancy molasses were manufactured in Nevis.

Three thousand one hundred and eighty acres were planted with cotton in 1936 and 485,040 lb. of lint produced.

There are Government agricultural instructors in Nevis and Anguilla, who pay visits to peasants' holdings and endeavour to improve their methods of agriculture.

Progress has been made with the land settlement schemes in Nevis and Anguilla.

The following table shows the relative exports of the principal products of St. Kitts-Nevis over a period of five years:—

		1932.	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
Sugar (tons) ...	...	19,969	22,588	28,320	27,280	26,892
,, (value) ...	...£	197,466	234,747	260,000	236,964	236,959
Molasses (gal.) ...	...	459,404	630,749	973,000	453,999	474,024
,, (value)	...£	2,971	2,897	2,027	5,126	6,562
Cotton (lb.) ...	...	85,018	88,550	141,687	204,647	508,295
,, (value) ...	...£	4,250	4,701	8,200	10,327	33,885
Coconuts ...	...	78,770	56,953	105,646	95,157	9,030
,, (value)	...£	445	289	228	215	26
Tomatoes (lb.) ...	...	53,000	28,637	12,000	15,880	14,220
,, (value)	...£	524	221	105	120	100
Salt (tons) ...	...	759	34	1,302	1,677	2,500
,, (value) ...	...£	655	9	2,056	2,188	3,173

Dominica.

There was a general increase in the production of agricultural products and exports showed an improvement of £12,771 in their estimated f.o.b. value.

The lime industry is showing definite signs of recovery and the exports when expressed in barrels of fruit show an increase of 8,612 barrels as compared with those of the previous year. Calculated on the usual basis, the crop exported totalled 36,825 barrels of limes as compared with 28,213 in 1935. The principal lime products exported and their estimated f.o.b. values were as follows:—

> Green limes 3,555 barrels, £5,518; Raw Juice 88,460 gal., £3,686; Concentrated Juice 2,783 gal., £198; Distilled Oil 9,189 lb., £9,612; Ecuelled Oil 350 lb., £565.

The fresh fruit export trade, excepting that in grapefruit, has shown satisfactory expansion. Increased shipments of oranges, mangoes and avocado pears were made and prices ruling were on the whole satisfactory to shippers. The banana industry is making progress, exports showing an increase of 28,331 bunches. The principal fruit exports and their estimated f.o.b. values were:—

> Oranges 1,968 barrels and 8,818 crates, £7,319; Grapefruit 3,038 crates, £1,586; Avocado Pears 5,158 crates, £1,171; Mangoes 8,616 crates, £3,164; Bananas 99,858 bunches, £8,391.

An improvement in the price of copra and co-operation among coconut growers to develop an export trade in dry coconuts has resulted in a revival of interest in the coconut industry. Despite an increase of 489,384 in the number of coconuts shipped, exports of copra remained almost at the same level as in the previous year. The exports and f.o.b. values were:—

> Coconuts 719,554, £1,991; Copra 273,612 lb., £1,497.

Although the price of cocoa showed improvement, adverse weather conditions seriously affected production. Exports and f.o.b. value were 354,578 lb., £4,168.

The demand for vanilla showed considerable improvement and resulted in a big increase in production with prices better than they have been for a number of years. Exports were 3,732 lb. greater than in 1935 and totalled 4,341 lb. having an estimated f.o.b. value of £868.

Other products exported and their estimated f.o.b. values included:—

> Rum 3,090 gal., £424; Bay Oil 21,282 lb., £3,229; Tobacco 3,156 lb., £200; Forest products £1,464.

A few of the principal estates are owned by Europeans, but the majority belong to local planters. There is a preponderance of peasant holdings which contribute to the production of staple products as well as to supplying produce for local consumption.

The raising of livestock is left to individual enterprise and the number raised is only sufficient for local needs.

There is no organized fishing industry, but natives engage in fishing to supply the local demand for fresh fish.

The following table shows the relative exports of the principal products of Dominica over a period of five years:—

	1932.	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
Limes, total crop estimated as " barrels "...	48,000	36,000	27,000	28,214	36,825
Limes, green or fresh (barrels)	8,394	4,391	3,790	4,035	3,865
Limes, green or fresh (value) ... ...£	10,418	4,033	4,598	6,123	5,968
Lime juice, raw (gal.) ...	62,545	37,770	74,908	48,074	88,460
,, ,, ,, (value)...£	2,911	1,889	4,523	2,002	3,686
Lime juice, concentrated (gal.)	5,561	35,467	7,462	3,372	2,783
Lime juice, concentrated (value) ... ...£	193	1,817	273	184	198
Lime oil, distilled (lb.)	11,218	9,302	6,288	7,127	9,189
,, ,, ,, (value)£	13,271	10,288	6,418	7,443	9,612
Lime oil, ecuelled (lb.)	617	320	245	140	350
,, ,, ,, (value)£	677	353	393	186	565
Bay oil (lb.)	20,915	21,774	14,988	16,474	21,282
,, ,, (value) ...£	3,683	3,630	2,206	2,421	3,229
Oranges (crates and barrels) ...	6,583	7,255	7,192	8,850	10,786
,, (value)... ...£	2,236	3,268	4,324	5,764	7,319
Grapefruit (crates) ...	3,954	5,981	3,167	5,386	3,038
,, (value) ...£	1,937	2,684	1,403	2,596	1,586
Avocado pears (crates)	1,254	2,946	4,344	3,726	5,158
,, ,, (value) £	276	567	838	744	1,171
Mangoes (crates) ...	6,743	6,872	4,084	3,462	8,616
,, (value) ...£	1,496	931	1,225	1,363	3,164
Cocoa (lb.)	269,099	358,112	324,333	344,156	354,578
,, (value) ... ...£	1,837	2,550	2,983	3,459	4,168
Coconuts	116,840	109,357	103,639	230,170	719,554
,, (value) ...£	384	223	249	452	1,991
Copra (lb.)	107,107	105,237	247,508	278,793	273,612
,, (value) ... ...£	1,112	882	836	1,066	1,497
Rum (gal.)	11,520	24,660	17,521	10,179	3,090
,, (value) ... ...£	1,587	3,811	2,281	1,428	424
Vanilla (lb.)	1,974	21	797	609	4,341
,, (value) ... ...£	395	2	109	152	868
Bananas (bunches) ...	9,019	22,304	37,850	71,527	99,858
,, (value) ...£	422	889	3,253	5,780	8,391
Hardwood (ft.)	—	65,193	108,466	95,407	131,638
,, (value) ...£	—	405	965	537	710
Tobacco Leaf (lb.) ...	—	1,834	12,800	5,823	3,042
,, (value)... ...£	—	144	1,031	349	178
Canoes & shells ...£	46	164	267	456	660

Montserrat.

During the year the island suffered severely through failure of the cotton crop as the result of adverse weather conditions. Exports of vegetables showed a marked increase; lime products, however, found limited demand. Economic conditions were generally unfavourable compared with the previous year.

The area planted in cotton in 1936 was 4,450 acres, slightly more than that in the previous year. Throughout the growing and harvesting period the crop was handicapped by unfavourable weather. Prolonged drought delayed the early establishment of fields; excessive moisture in the later stages made harvesting and drying of seed cotton difficult, encouraged the development of insect pests and boll diseases and placed difficulties in the way of securing an absolutely reliable and satisfactory seed supply for the following season. The total output of clean lint was less than half a million pounds compared with just over one million obtained from a slightly smaller area in the previous year. Prices showed a slight increase and severe competition existed in the local market for supplies of seed cotton.

The crop was readily disposed of at prices ranging from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 10d. per lb. of lint in the United Kingdom and on the Continent.

Exports of vegetables during the season were more than double those in the previous year. Tomato cultivation was greatly extended and peasants realized remunerative returns. Other vegetables also found a demand in the Canadian and inter-Colonial market and the industry generally did much to assist peasants in tiding over depressed conditions which attended the cotton crop.

Lime fields also suffered to a considerable extent from the prolonged drought conditions which occurred during the first half of the year. Green limes and lime products found a limited demand abroad; it was possible to avoid any losses on the Canadian market through shipping only on cabled orders from brokers.

The following table shows the relative exports of the principal products of Montserrat during the past five years:—

	1932.	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
Cotton (lb.)	187,131	599,631	826,581	1,018,041	605,176
,, (value) ... ...£	12,939	24,577	41,329	54,106	33,950
,, (acreage planted)	1,500	2,187	3,106	4,438	4,450
Cotton seed (tons) ...	141	216	340	455	418
,, ,, (value) ...£	437	723	1,294	1,625	1,097
Limes, green or fresh (barrels)	580	9,071	3,674	4,521	568
Limes, green or fresh (value) ... ...£	625	1,324	3,674	1,742	652
Lime juice, raw (gal.)	29,134	48,691	18,183	79,771	46,046
,, ,, ,, (value) £	1,453	4,231	698	3,417	1,917
Lime Oil ... ...£	838	2,000	2,133	2,309	1,835
Other vegetables ...£	337	626	855	1,154	455
Tomatoes (crates of 20 lb.)	22,764	8,110	8,097	18,334	45,868
,, ,, ,, (value) £	—	1,309	1,350	2,733	6,975
Onions (lb.)	41,564	50,906	65,495	27,630	49,467
,, (value) ... ...£	300	335	397	149	226

Virgin Islands.

During the year 1935-6 cotton crop amounting to 11,730 lb. of lint was shipped to England.

The 1936 crop promised to be good, but unfortunately it was badly infested with pink bollworm and four-fifths of the crop was lost.

The Commissioner of Agriculture has strongly recommended perseverance in cotton as the staple industry and in consequence a five-year plan has been devised to establish it on a sound footing. A free grant of £500 has been obtained from the Colonial Development Fund for the eradication of cotton pest host plants, *Thespesia* and *Eriodendron;* and the work is already well in hand.

A scheme for tobacco cultivation which was started in 1934 has been revived and there are signs of activity in this industry. Tobacco is being cultivated by a greater number of peasants. A site has been purchased and is being cleared at Peter Island for the erection of a factory and some machinery has already been imported.

No arrangements for contract or for non-contract labour are in force and as practically everyone is possessed of his own land paid labour is difficult to obtain.

Cattle, sheep, goats and horses comprise the main items in the livestock industry, while poultry raising is an important secondary industry. The following figures show the estimated annual production:—

		Produced.	*Exported.*
Cattle	No.	1,800	1,600
Sheep	No.	1,000	600
Goats	No.	3,500	2,500
Poultry	Doz.	240	140
Swine	No.	600	500
Fish	lb.	80,000	40,000
Mules and horses ...	No.	200	140
Fruit and vegetables ...		£2,100	2,000

LIVESTOCK OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Although mechanical ploughs are very suitable for the hard clay soils of Antigua, cattle will for a long time be needed as plough and draught animals in that island and also in St. Kitts-Nevis and Dominica. In the former island a mixed strain with imported Mysore or zebu blood has been found very useful. Horses are used principally by the planters and overseers for riding about the estates. Mules are used to a certain extent for ploughing in both St. Kitts and Antigua. Donkeys are largely the means of transport of the labouring classes. Sheep are only required for the meat markets, and are usually of poor quality. Goats, pigs, and poultry are bred in large quantities for food purposes by the labouring classes.

In Antigua and St. Kitts there are qualified Government veterinary surgeons, who inspect all livestock on importation, examine market animals before and after slaughter, and periodically examine milking cattle. They also look after the health of all horses and mules belonging to the Government. They are allowed private practice among the estates of the island.

An investigation has been made into the incidence of Bovine Tuberculosis in Antigua and measures to combat this disease are receiving consideration.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The total values of the imports and exports of the Colony for the past five years have been as follows:—

	1932.	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports from—					
United Kingdom ...	246,592	269,129	245,654	231,319	278,282
Canada	107,346	109,089	112,635	121,792	133,333
Rest of Empire ...	87,966	93,473	86,203	98,948	103,588
United States of America	80,797	75,022	79,973	82,273	95,268
Other foreign countries	28,787	54,780	53,602	44,593	51,913
Total	551,488	601,493	578,067	578,925	662,384
Exports to—					
United Kingdom ...	296,062	387,345	379,628	299,481	321,104
Canada	114,047	108,997	119,170	184,242	218,978
Rest of Empire ...	26,076	21,265	36,200	40,859	48,053
United States of America.	33,452	20,321	16,957	17,439	16,836
Other foreign countries	13,626	21,688	25,221	29,681	26,462
Total	483,263	559,616	577,176	571,702	631,433
Percentage of value of exported sugar to total exports	82	81	77	70	66

From the above it will be seen that sugar forms the bulk of the Colony's exports, and that any lowering of the value of sugar exports, due to hurricane, drought, or low prices, is at once reflected not only in the total export trade but automatically in the import trade, because there is less money in circulation. The percentages of imports are as follows:—

	1932. per cent.	*1933.* per cent.	*1934.* per cent.	*1935.* per cent.	*1936.* per cent.
United Kingdom ...	45	44	42	40	42
Canada	19	18	20	21	20
Rest of the Empire ...	16	16	15	17	15
United States of America	15	12	13	14	15
Other foreign countries	5	10	10	8	8

It is interesting to note that the position of the United Kingdom has been maintained, in spite of the fact that £1 now buys £1 worth of goods in the United States, as contrasted with 13s. worth in 1932 and 1933 after the departure of Great Britain from the Gold Standard. Owing, however, to the lower rate of import duty on British goods, the revenues of the Colony have suffered. The trade with the United Kingdom in motor-cars, shoes, groceries, cotton, and fancy goods might be still further developed, but not by correspondence. Visits of commercial travellers with samples are very necessary.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The day wages of field labourers vary from 1s. to 2s. for men and 6d. to 10d. for women, with about 3s. 6d. to 6s. for artizans. The wages of domestic servants are from 4s. to 12s. a week. Most of the field work on the estates is done by the task, and in the crop season labourers frequently perform two tasks a day, earning from 16s. to 20s. a week. In addition to this estate labourers are usually provided with free medical attendance, houses, and land for planting provisions.

For office workers and professional men the cost of living is about the same as in the country districts of England. The rent of bungalows or small houses is about £40 to £60 a year. The hotels, which are more like small boarding houses, charge between 8s. 4d. and 16s. 8d. a day. The average prices of foodstuffs per lb. are:—bread 4d., flour 3d., fish 4d., beef 8d., and milk 4d. per qt.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education.

Elementary or primary schools (all free and undenominational) are maintained by Government throughout Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica, and are State-aided in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands. There is an advisory Board of Education in each Presidency. A sum of £26,022 was provided for education in 1936. Pupil teachers are trained locally for three years, and then selected ones are awarded studentships for higher training at the Training College in Trinidad for men, or the Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College at Antigua for women. As the outcome of the Mayhew-Marriott Reports, the whole system of education in the West Indies is being considered by two Education Commissioners, Messrs. S. A. Hammond and H. W. Stokes, who have their headquarters in Trinidad and travel about from Colony to Colony.

Antigua.

The Boys' Grammar School, founded in 1884, is open to all races and denominations, but is the property of the Anglican diocese of Antigua. There are about 60 boys on the roll. The teaching staff consists of a headmaster and three whole time and four part time assistants. The Government subsidy in 1935 was £500, in part return for which seven free Government scholarships of £12 a year are given.

The Girls' High School, founded 1886, is open to all races and denominations, and has about 80 pupils, some 20 being boarders. The teaching is arranged for by a headmistress, a deputy, and five assistant mistresses, resident at the school. The Government subsidy in 1935 was £200, in part return for which there are five free Government scholarships.

The T. O. Robinson Memorial School, founded in 1898, is open to all races and denominations and has about 60 pupils, boys and girls. Miss Robinson, the proprietress, is aided by a teaching staff, and all the usual facilities for instruction and recreation are afforded. There is a School Board, and the Government pays a subsidy of £90 a year.

In Antigua there are 20 Government elementary or primary schools and several small private ones; at Barbuda there is a primary school managed by the Anglican authorities and receiving a Government grant of £90 per annum. There is at St. John's a small night-school, held in a Government school-building, under the auspices of Toc H.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Secondary education in St. Kitts is provided for by a Government Grammar School for boys, a Government subsidized High School for girls and a school managed by the Nuns of the Order of Missionary Canonesses of St. Augustine.

In Nevis there is also a Government subsidized school for both boys and girls. The standard aimed at is that of the Cambridge School Certificate.

There are 16 primary schools in St. Kitts; of these three are for infants, two for boys, and two for girls only.

In Nevis there are ten primary schools, one for infants, two for boys, two for girls and five mixed. There are five schools in Anguilla. An Inspector of Schools for the Presidency is stationed in St. Kitts, and in each of the other islands there is an Educational District Officer.

The number of children on the roll for the whole Presidency is 7,657.

There are two Homes for the Poor and Infirm in the Presidency, one at Basseterre, St. Kitts, and the other at Charlestown, Nevis.

Dominica.

Government maintains 28 primary schools at which the total enrolments in 1936 amounted to 7,743. There are five other schools of this nature operating, three of which receive a grant-in-aid from public funds; the remaining two are unaided and controlled by the Roman Catholic Body. Secondary education for boys is obtainable at the Government Grammar School in Roseau where the average attendance during the year was 39·03. The fees payable at this institution aggregate £6 *per capita* for the year and there are three scholarships available every year representing an annual value of £9 in the case of those from town schools and £19 in that of schools in the districts.

In addition to the foregoing the Order of the Faithful Virgin maintains, with the assistance of Public Funds, a Convent for girls, 67 attending in 1936; while the Wesley High School for girls had an attendance of 11; the fees for attendance at the former institution vary from 12s. to £2 10s. per term in the various stages of the school, those of the latter from 24s. to 33s.

There is also a lower boys' secondary school designed to meet the needs of the poorer classes, named St. Mary's Academy; it is under the control of the Bishop of Roseau and has an average attendance of 35 boys. The fees for attending this school vary from 15s. to 25s. per term.

Night schools exist at Roseau and Portsmouth, and agricultural instruction is obtainable both at the Government primary schools and at the Botanical Gardens.

Montserrat.

A sum of £2,863 was spent on education in 1936.

There were 12 elementary schools staffed by 33 teachers and 28 pupil teachers. The scholars on the roll numbered 2,873.

A grammar school for boys is maintained by the Government; the cost in 1936 was £588. A secondary school for girls and children receives a Government grant of £100 a year. Scholarships tenable at both secondary schools are awarded to scholars from primary schools.

Virgin Islands.

1,350 children are enrolled in the primary schools, all denominational and Government-aided. There are no secondary schools.

Welfare.

A small reformatory school exists at Antigua for about 20 boys. Reference has already been made in the chapter on the health of the Colony to homes for the aged and infirm and to the crêche system in the various Presidencies. A number of Mutual Friendly Societies exist with funds for sickness and burials, organized either in conjunction with the different churches or of an undenominational character.

There are Lodges of Freemasons in most of the Presidencies.

The principal religious denominations in the Colony are the Anglican, Wesleyan, Moravian Mission, Roman Catholic (very numerous in Dominica), and some minor sects of American origin. The Salvation Army has also rendered useful service of a general nature for some years past. There are now about 300 boy scouts and 400 girl guides in the Colony. The Toc H. Association has been established in Antigua, the first branch in the West Indies.

Recreation.

Forms of recreation are plentiful for all classes. Sea-bathing in the warm blue-green water off the palm-fringed white beaches of Antigua and Anguilla is as good as can be found anywhere in the world; and in places in the other islands is also very good. Sailing and fishing are indulged in to a limited extent. Cricket is a sport that appeals to popular enthusiasm throughout the islands, and the inter-Presidential annual tournament always creates the greatest excitement. Tennis clubs exist in all the Presidencies, and it can be played on grass courts all the year round. Association football has become popular in recent years during the winter months. There is a 9-hole golf course at Antigua.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Sea.

The principal islands of the Colony are served by the following steamship companies:—

Canadian National.—From Canada.

Ocean Dominion.—From Canada.

Bermuda and West Indies (Furness Withy).—From New York.

American Caribbean Line.—From New York.

Harrison Line.—From England.

Compagnie Générale Transatlantique.—From Havre.

Smaller steamships of the Dutch line also call at St. Kitts, and schooners and sloops make irregular calls at most of the islands. His Majesty's ships from the American and West Indies Station (headquarters, Bermuda), occasionally spend a few days among the islands, particularly in the winter months. During

1936, 1,053 British steamships, of a total tonnage of 5,082,309 tons, and 599 foreign steamships, of a total tonnage of 1,408,259 tons, entered and cleared the ports of the Colony.

Air.

The branch of Pan-American Airways that flies between Miami and Trinidad calls regularly for passengers and mails on Mondays and Fridays at Antigua.

Roads.

In Antigua there are 166 miles of roads (65 miles being main roads) mostly of poor quality, traversed by motors, carriages, ox waggons, horses, and donkeys; the latter, pannier-carrying, being a feature of peasant transport for produce. There are also motor-omnibus services in most of the Presidencies. In St. Kitts there is a main road 30 miles in length encircling the island. In Nevis there is a similar encircling road 18 miles in length. Anguilla has about 20 miles of good roads, but there are only about a dozen cars in the island. Dominica roads are a most difficult problem owing to the mountains and rivers and frequent landslides. There are now about 270 miles of roads of which 68 are motor roads. A launch service takes the place of an impassable road between Roseau and Portsmouth. Montserrat has 68 miles of roads, but not more than about half this distance is really suitable for motor traffic. The Virgin Islands have no motor roads outside Road Town, all land traffic being by horse-back or donkey-back.

As mentioned in Chapter VI, there are narrow-gauge railways in Antigua and St. Kitts, but these are only for sugar transport.

Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones.

There are central Post Offices at St. John's, Basseterre, Roseau, Plymouth and Road Town; and 16 sub-offices in Antigua, 10 in St. Kitts-Nevis, 13 in Dominica, 4 in Montserrat, and 4 in the Virgin Islands. There is an annual overseas traffic of about two million letters and postal packages.

The telephone service throughout the islands is of the metallic earth system. In addition to a central exchange in each of the larger islands there are 2 sub-exchanges and 315 subscribers in Antigua; 3 sub-exchanges and 240 subscribers in St. Kitts-Nevis; 5 sub-exchanges and 141 subscribers in Dominica; and 2 sub-exchanges and 56 subscribers in Montserrat. There are also a few miles of telephone service in Anguilla.

The wireless telegraph system (owned by Cable and Wireless, Ltd.), is established at Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica, and a similar one, owned by the Government but operated by the Company in Montserrat.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

British currency is legal tender throughout the Colony, but in the Virgin Islands, where there is no bank and where practically all trade is done with St. Thomas, either American or Danish currency circulates along with British. Government accounts are kept in all the Presidencies in sterling, but in the banks and in many commercial houses the dollar system is used at a standard rate of $4.80 to the £. Barclay's Bank (D.C.O.) has branches at Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica. The Royal Bank of Canada has branches at Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat. These banks pay a Government stamp duty of £62 10s. 0d. per annum each in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis, £25 in Dominica and £15 in Montserrat. Each has a note issue of $5 notes, to the amount of between $30,000 and $50,000 in circulation. They each have a Savings Bank section, which was paying 1½ per cent. interest on deposits in 1936. Government Savings Banks also operate in the principal islands. Amounts to the credit of depositors, on which interest is paid at 2½ per cent., were as follows:—

Government Savings Banks.

	31st December, 1932.	*31st December, 1933.*	*31st December, 1934.*	*31st December, 1935.*	*31st December, 1936.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua	16,371	16,534	16,968	17,890	20,040
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	4,077	3,925	4,115	4,375	5,394
Dominica ...	5,735	5,409	5,056	4,899	6,180
Montserrat ...	565	724	627	667	689
Virgin Islands ...	2,005	1,756	1,296	2,587	3,371
Total for the Colony	28,753	28,348	28,062	30,418	35,674

There are no Agricultural Banks, except a small privately-managed one in the Virgin Islands.

Weights and Measures.

Weights and measures are standard Imperial and are periodically examined by Government inspectors.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Antigua.

A Superintendent of Public Works is assisted by a road overseer and assistant road overseer, a clerk, a storekeeper and a temporary draughtsman. The Superintendent is also Chairman of the St. John City Commissioners, and has for staff a city clerk and a junior clerk.

Works undertaken during the year consisted of the usual maintenance of Government buildings, property, waterworks and roads. Extraordinary repairs were effected to North Sound Bridge a ward at the Holberton Hospital, and the Central Prison.

A Public Works Loan was raised during the year, and work was commenced by the erection of a new Customs warehouse in steel and reinforced concrete to take the place of the dilapidated old wooden structure. New roadmaking plant was purchased for the Public Works Department, consisting of three modern crude-oil road rollers, Colas spraying machines, and a stone granulator. Two new motor lorries of the Morris type were purchased. Work was commenced on the new store for the Public Works Department.

Colonial Development Fund works.—The Water Scheme was completed, and new wells at the Follies, together with new pumping plant at that station and Bendals, were installed and brought into use.

Approval was received for a new road reconstruction scheme comprising the roads to Fort James and to English Harbour via the Antigua Sugar Factory and All Saints, and the rebuilding of certain of the city streets, including a bridge at the south end of Market Street to deal with storm water. Progress was made with these works.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Staff.—A Surveyor of Works (who is also Superintendent of Telephones), assisted by a clerk, and by an executive officer in Nevis, constitute the principal staff in this Presidency. Nothing much beyond ordinary maintenance work was possible during the year. The improvement in the streets of Basseterre continues to be effected by oiling the surface and making concrete drains and pavements.

Colonial Development Fund works.—The Nevis Land Settlement Scheme continues to make progress.

Dominica.

Staff.—A Colonial Engineer assisted by two road overseers and an electrician comprise the senior Public Works staff here.

Works undertaken.—During the past year the chief undertaking of the Public Works Department was the construction of a road from Portsmouth to Hatton Garden estimated to cost £36,000, of which 20 miles had been completed by the end of the year. The cost of this work is being financed from Colonial Development Funds.

During the last few months of the year torrential rains were experienced, with heavy floods causing considerable damage to roads, bridges, etc.

Montserrat.

Staff.—An Inspector of Works and Roads works under the general supervision of the Commissioner. He is also in charge of the telephone system. Repairs to buildings, water pipes, bridges, etc., damaged during the earthquakes of the last three years occupied the officers of the Department during the year.

A programme of reconstruction work costing £21,000 has been started and includes the reconstruction of the hospital, Belham Bridge, the prison, the Court House and Government House.

Colonial Development Fund works.—The extension of the water supply to country villages and the laying of concrete drains in the villages have greatly improved the conditions of life of the labouring and peasant population.

Expenditure on increasing cold storage accommodation was met by a loan of £1,180 from Colonial Development Funds.

Virgin Islands.

The Commissioner supervises any public works. No work of importance was undertaken in 1936.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The Superior Courts of the Colony are presided over by the Chief Justice or Puisne Judge. Circuit Courts, with a jury of nine, are held three times a year each at Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat, and, as occasion requires, at Tortola. The Attorney-General or the Crown Attorneys have the function of a Grand Jury. A Court of Summary Jurisdiction, without a jury, for civil cases where less than £50 is involved, is held monthly in Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica, and the Virgin Islands, on alternate months in Montserrat, and quarterly in Anguilla. The Commissioners of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands act as Deputy Judges for this purpose. Appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the West Indian Court of Appeal, and from the Summary Courts to the Supreme Court. Magistrates in each Presidency deal with minor cases. In Antigua there are two Magistrates (one being for Barbuda), in St. Kitts-Nevis four, in Dominica three, and in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands one each (the Commissioners). The principal Magistrate in St. Kitts and Dominica is also the Crown Attorney. Appeals from the Magistrates' Courts go to a Judge of the Supreme Court, and in further appeal to the Full Court, which is held twice a year in Antigua and consists of the Chief Justice and Puisne Judge. The time for the payment of fines may be deferred, or they may be paid in instalments.

In each Presidency there are Justices of the Peace, but with very limited powers. Any two may act for a Magistrate, if the latter is an interested party. First offenders are frequently bound over and the assistance of one of the clergy invoked to help the person. Juvenile offenders are usually dealt with at a separate hour of the Court or else in the Magistrate's room.

The following table shows the number of convictions for various crimes and offences for the last four years:—

	1933.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
Summary convictions :—				
1. Offences against the person ...	1,487	1,253	1,138	1,213
2. Praedial larceny	406	403	513	460
3. Malicious injuries to property ...	131	36	40	27
3. Offences against property (other than praedial larceny and malicious injuries to property)	824	310	291	312
4. Other crimes	—	1,445	1,997	1,755
Offences against the Masters and Servants Act, including Acts relative to Indentured Coolies	158	62	81	119
Offences against Revenue Laws, Municipal, Road and other Laws relating to the social economy of the Colony ...	2,643	2,578	2,731	3,101
Miscellaneous minor offences ...	3,306	3,019	2,883	2,748
Totals	8,955	9,106	9,674	9,735
Convictions in the Superior Courts :—				
1. Murder of wife or concubine ...	—	—	—	—
1. Murder of child	—	2	—	—
1. Murder other than wife, concubine or child	1	5	—	—
1. Manslaughter	1	1	1	—
2. Attempted Murder	—	—	—	1
2. Rape	2	—	4	4
2. Unnatural crime	—	—	—	2
2. Other Offences against the person	9	18	24	77
3. Praedial larceny	5	3	7	5
4. Offences against property with violence to the person... ...	—	—	—	1
4. Other offences against property...	23	42	31	37
5. Other crimes	3	13	15	29
Total	44	84	82	156

Police.

The Police Force is a Federal one and consists of two Superintendents, four Assistant Superintendents, and 148 N.C.Os. and men, all under the command of a Commissioner who has his headquarters at Antigua. A Superintendent and an Assistant Superintendent are usually stationed in Dominica, and in St. Kitts-Nevis. In Montserrat there is an Assistant Superintendent. The Commissioner of Police is also Commandant of the Defence Force of the Colony, and the Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents hold rank therein as Captains and Lieutenants respectively.

The period of first enlistment and re-engagement for N.C.Os. and men is three years. All men take part in musketry training and ambulance work in addition to their ordinary police duties. There are also 350 local constables enrolled, who can be called upon when required for extra assistance in the country districts.

Prisons.

The central prison for the Colony is at St. John's, Antigua. It has accommodation for 80 males and 47 females, and is staffed by a head warder, a matron, nine wardens and one wardress. £975 was expended on personal emoluments during the year. Instruction is given to the male prisoners in carpentry, tinsmithing, baking, and to the females in laundry and sewing. Elementary education is voluntarily given to some of the more illiterate prisoners by certain members of the Toc H. Association, and the Prison Chaplain gives instruction in religion. Prisoners are also employed within the prison on stone-breaking, cleaning, etc., and certain of the male prisoners outside on roadwork, in the Botanic gardens, pauper cemetery, and other public institutions. The prison bakery made over 30,000 lb. of bread during the year, supplying both the Prison and the Reformatory Training School.

168 males and 44 females were committed during the year, 18 males and 1 female coming from other Presidencies. The daily average was 62 males and 7 females. There are 72 individual cells for males and 20 for females; and 1 association cell for 5 males, and 3 to hold 3 each for females. There is an average of about 500 cubic feet of cell space per prisoner. There is also an infirmary on the male side to hold 9 and another on the female side to hold 3. The Prison Medical Officer pays daily visits. Prisoners who are seriously ill are treated under suitable precautions at the island hospital. There are 10 Visiting Justices to the Prison, who hold periodical meetings there to enquire into complaints and to consider questions of prison discipline. The boys' Reformatory School has already been referred to in the chapter on Education.

Numbers of male prisoners.

Daily average in Prisons of the Colony for five years.

	1932.	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
Antigua (Central Prison)	79	51	24	22	69
St. Kitts-Nevis	27	41	48	64	80
Dominica	20	36	49	55	67
Montserrat	8	10	8	7	7
Virgin Islands ...	—	—	—	—	7
					3
Total	134	138	129	148	226

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The prison is at Basseterre and consists of a group of stone buildings surrounded by a 14 ft. wall. On the male side there are 16 cells of 18 ft. by 10 ft. each, and on the female side 10 cells of about the same size. The average cubic foot space per prisoner is 714 ft.

Three hundred and forty-eight males and 103 females were committed during the year, mostly on short sentences. The staff consisted of a keeper and six male warders and a matron and a wardress at a cost of £577. Prisoners are taught and employed in the same manner as at Antigua, and sick prisoners are dealt with in similar fashion.

Dominica.

The prison is at Roseau, and consists of a group of stone buildings enclosed by a high stone wall. There are 20 cells for males and 8 for females, with an average cubic space per prisoner of 672 ft.

Two hundred and seventy-four males and 161 females were committed during the year, mostly on short sentences. The staff consisted of a keeper, six male warders, a matron, and one wardress, at a cost of £519. Prisoners are taught and employed in the same manner as at Antigua, and sick prisoners are dealt with in similar fashion.

Montserrat.

The present prison at Plymouth is stone-built. There are 8 cells for males and 3 for females, with an average cubic space per prisoner of about 600 ft. Eighty-six males and 20 females were committed during the year. The staff consisted of a keeper, a male warder, and a matron, at a cost of £647. Male prisoners with sentences over six months and females with sentences of over two months are transferred to the Antigua Prison. Owing to damage to buildings by earthquakes an additional warder is employed temporarily for night duty. A new prison is being constructed as the present one has been condemned owing to damage by earthquakes.

Virgin Islands.

The prison at Tortola is a large stone building more than sufficient for the needs of the Presidency. Only 10 prisoners were committed during the year. The staff consisted of a keeper, who is also the Corporal of Police, and a matron, at a cost of £14.

All the prisons of the Colony are kept scrupulously clean, and in St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat the Superintendents of Police have supervising powers as officers-in-charge of prison discipline.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Colony.

The General Legislative Council met in March, 1936. Five amendments to existing Acts and two Appropriation Acts were passed. New legislation consisted of the Pilgrim Holiness Church Act, 1937. Legislation regarding workmen's compensation is still under consideration. Thirty Statutory Rules and Orders were made under Federal Acts during the year. Most of them dealt with minor matters of administration.

Antigua.

Twenty-four Ordinances were passed, 16 being amendments of existing Ordinances, and the remainder minor financial or administrative legislation with the exception of the Antigua Cotton Growers Association Ordinance, 1936, and the Constitution Ordinance, 1936. Twenty-five Statutory Rules and Orders were made, the most important dealing with Textile Quotas, as was the case in each Presidency.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Eighteen Ordinances (seven being amending ones) and nine Statutory Rules and Orders became law during the year. The most important Ordinances were those dealing with cotton and the new Constitution.

Dominica.

Nine Ordinances (one being an amending one) were passed. The most important was the Constitution Ordinance. Thirteen Statutory Rules and Orders were made.

Montserrat.

Nineteen Ordinances (11 amending ones) were passed, the Constitution Ordinance being the most important. Twenty-three Statutory Rules and Orders were made.

Virgin Islands.

Ten Ordinances were made, mostly concerning alterations in taxation, and eight Statutory Rules and Orders.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The following is a comparative table of the local revenue and expenditure of the Colony as a whole and its five component Presidencies for the past five financial years:—

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Montserrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*	*Leeward Islands Colony.*
1932.						
Revenue ...	73,223	80,963	52,380	19,344	5,723	231,633
Expenditure	82,512	84,250	68,278	23,961	6,420	265,421
Surplus or Deficit ...	−9,289	−3,287	−15,898	−4,617	−697	−33,788
1933.						
Revenue ...	88,061	91,714	57,207	17,564	4,485	259,031
Expenditure	81,006	82,896	64,360	26,763	6,782	261,807
Surplus or Deficit ...	+7,055	+8,818	−7,153	−9,199	−2,297	−2,776
1934.						
Revenue ...	80,620	101,847	52,332	18,189	4,531	257,519
Expenditure	80,351	86,497	63,837	22,750	5,874	259,309
Surplus or Deficit ...	+269	+15,350	−11,505	−4,561	−1,343	−1,790
1935.						
Revenue ...	83,846	101,595	51,846	29,140	7,328	273,755
Expenditure	85,420	92,189	62,896	25,927	5,881	272,313
Surplus or Deficit ...	−1,574	+9,406	−11,050	+3,213	+1,447	+1,442
1936.						
Revenue ...	84,734	107,751	52,925	25,667	4,993	276,070
Expenditure	88,849	96,648	64,162	26,650	5,501	281,810
Surplus or Deficit ...	−4,115	+11,103	−11,237	−983	−508	−5,740

The following sums were received by the Colony from Imperial Funds during the year:—

	£
Antigua—	
Loan in aid of administration	3,000
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes ...	7,341
St. Kitts-Nevis—	
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes	608
Dominica—	
Loan in aid of administration, agriculture, etc.	16,454
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes ...	6,400
Montserrat—	
Loan in aid of administration	5,000
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes ...	1,576

	£
Virgin Islands—	
Grant for Colonial Development scheme	500

The outstanding Public Debts and Sinking Funds of the Colony as at 31st December, 1936, were as follows:—

	Total Debt.	*Sinking Fund (Market value).*
	£	£
Antigua	73,860	30,857
St. Kitts-Nevis	58,026	30,220
Dominica	184,353	1,280
Montserrat	11,305	2,417
Virgin Islands	Nil	Nil
Total	327,544	64,774

The main heads of taxation and their yields were approximately as follows:—

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Montserrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Customs ...	45,299	56,104	26,887	13,706	2,252	144,248
Harbour, etc., dues	1,757	10,789	2,988	440	32	15,306
Internal Revenue ...	21,431	25,020	12,174	4,580	1,047	64,252
Fees	6,412	5,589	4,444	4,122	470	22,100
Post Office Telephones, Light, etc.	5,845	8,442	5,986	2,235	678	23,186
Miscellaneous ...	291	217	192	239	92	1,031

The Customs Tariff is arranged on either an *ad valorem* or a specific basis. The *ad valorem* rate is mainly on manufactured articles and is usually 10 per cent. British preferential and 15 per cent. general. As a result of the Ottawa Conference, certain improvements in favour of Empire goods were made in the tariffs throughout the Colony. Quotas were established for foreign textiles in 1934. Excise duties are leviable on locally made spirits or tobacco in such Presidencies as make them. Stamp duties are governed by Federal Statutes and are uniform throughout the Colony. There is no hut or poll tax. Receipts from sales of stamps in the Colony totalled £12,249 in 1936. The receipts for 1935 were £25,220 owing to the Silver Jubilee issue.

APPENDIX.

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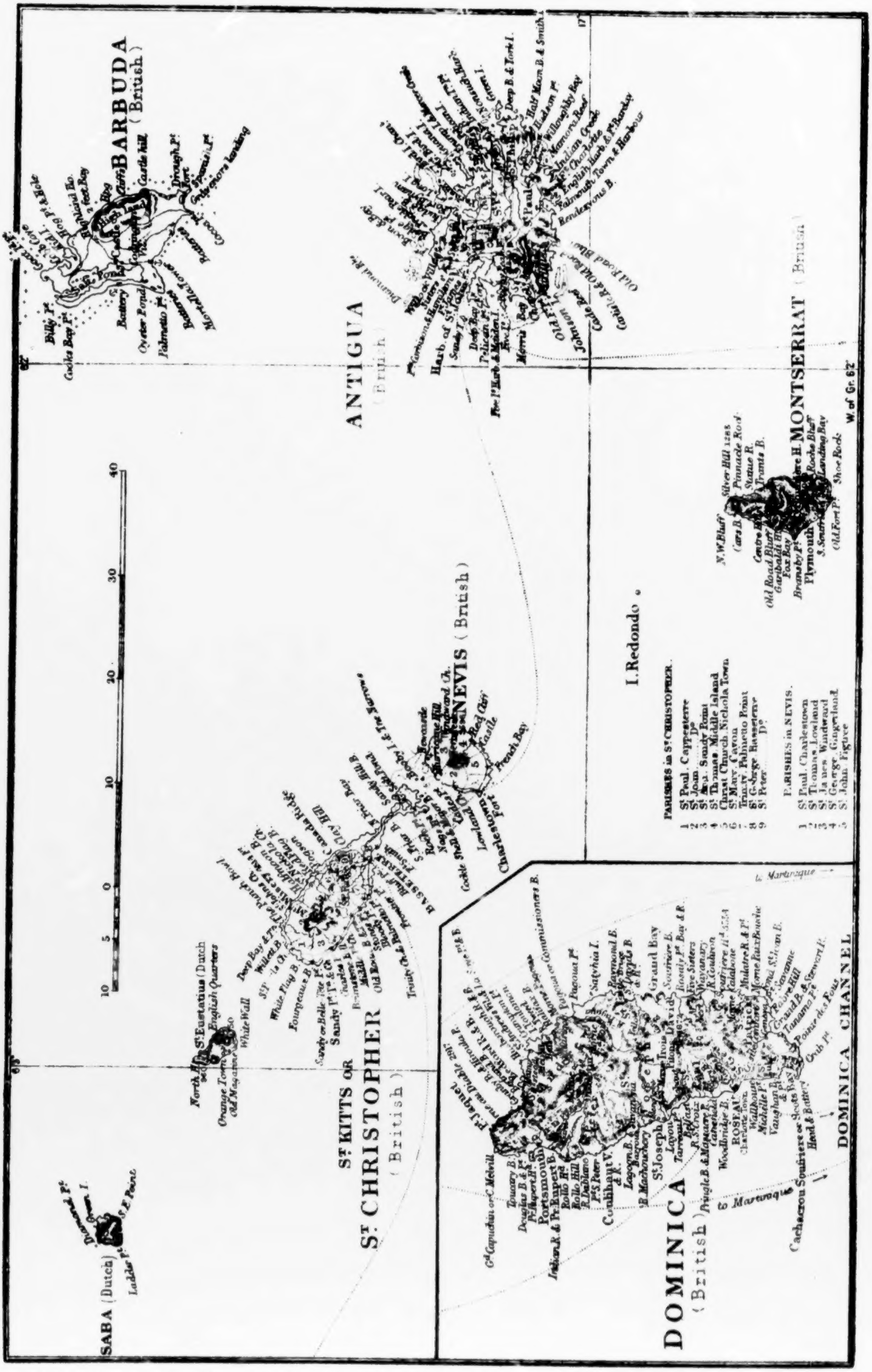
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3 St. Anne, Sandy Point
4 St. Thomas, Middle Island
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6 St. Mary, Cayon
7 Trinity, Palmetto Point
8 St. George, Basseterre
9 St. Peter, Do.
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1937

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR 1937.

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Colony of the Leeward Islands, with a total area of 726 square miles, consists of a number of islands belonging partly to the Lesser Antilles and partly to the Greater Antilles. Antigua, Barbuda, St. Christopher (St. Kitts), Nevis, and Montserrat lie between West longitude 61° and 63°, and around North latitude 17°, but Dominica is about 100 miles to the south, separated by the French island of Guadeloupe from the rest. The Virgin Islands, Sombrero, and Anguilla on the other hand lie some distance away to the north west. The Virgin Islands, St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat, and Dominica are mostly volcanic in origin with mountains rising to 1,780, 3,711, 3,596, 3,002, and 4,750 feet respectively, while Antigua, Barbuda, and Anguilla are sedimentary and are subject to drought.

All the islands are refreshed by the cooling trade winds, though Dominica, with its heavy intervening mountain system, becomes hot and steamy at certain times of the year. The rainfall registered at the different Botanic Stations during 1937 was as follows:—Antigua 62 inches, St. Kitts 43 inches, Dominica 75 inches, Montserrat 48 inches, Virgin Islands 56 inches. The mean temperature was 79° F.

Politically the Colony is divided into five Presidencies:—(*a*) Antigua, with Barbuda and Redonda, (*b*) St. Christopher-Nevis, with Anguilla, (*c*) Dominica, (*d*) Montserrat, and (*e*) the British Virgin Islands (which are in close proximity to the American Virgin Islands). These five Presidencies have been united and separated at various times in their history, and were finally federated in 1871 by an Imperial Act.

From a historical point of view the Leeward Islands Colony is one of the most interesting in the Empire.

St. Kitts was the first island in the West Indies to be systematically colonized by the English, Sir Thomas Warner, captain of the King's Body Guard, bringing out a number of farmers and artisans for that purpose in 1623. In 1666, 1689, and 1782 it was captured by the French, and in the latter year the famous defence of Brimstone Hill took place, a gallant action which ultimately enabled Rodney to defeat the French fleet at "The Saints" near Dominica and save the then Colonial Empire.

In Nevis, in 1787, Nelson, then aged 25, and acting as Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands Naval Station, married the young widow Nisbet, who survived him. In 1757 Alexander Hamilton, the son of a Scottish planter and the founder of the American Constitution, was born in Nevis.

Antigua is the headquarters of the Colony and the residence of the Governor. The island was settled by Sir Thomas Warner's son in 1632, and only once, in 1666, was it captured by the French. At Antigua is the historic old Naval Dockyard, first built in 1725, where Nelson lived between 1785 and 1787. It lies in a romantic narrow inlet, English Harbour, and is to-day just as it was left when the last of the old frigates was warped out. Efforts are now being made to preserve the ruined buildings so that it may be an Empire memorial to the Navy.

Dominica was originally declared as neutral territory between the French and English, but became English by the Treaty of Paris in 1763. In 1771 it was made a separate Colony, but was rejoined to the Leeward Islands in 1832. During that period, however, it was captured and held by the French for five years until restored to England by the Treaty of Versailles in 1783.

In 1805 the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (the old 46th) and the local militia distinguished themselves in a gallant resistance to General La Grange and a great invading force.

Montserrat was settled by Sir Thomas Warner in 1632, but was captured (and subsequently restored) by the French in 1666 and 1782.

The Virgin Islands were first settled by Dutch farmers, who became buccaneers in 1648. English buccaneers drove them out in 1666, and in 1672 the islands were absorbed into the Leeward Islands Colony. For a long time the islands were the haunts of pirates.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

There is one Governor of the Colony, and his representatives in the Presidencies of St. Christopher-Nevis and Dominica are styled Administrators, and in those of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, Commissioners.

The Colony possesses a Federal Executive and a General Legislative Council, the members of the former and the official members of the latter being appointed by the Crown, while the unofficial members of the latter (three each from Antigua and St. Christopher-Nevis, two from Dominica, and one from Montserrat) are elected by and from the unofficial members of the Legislatures of their respective Presidencies. There is also a nominated unofficial member for the Virgin Islands on the General Legislative Council.

Each Presidency has an Executive and a Legislative Council, with the exception of the Virgin Islands, which has an Executive Council only. The Presidential Legislative Councils have concurrent legislative powers with the General Legislative Council on specified subjects so far as their "Ordinances" are not repugnant to the "Acts" of the latter. The duration of each Legislative Council is limited to three years.

The Antigua Legislative Council, previously partly elected and partly nominated, passed an Act in 1898 abrogating itself and substituting the Crown Colony system.

The St. Kitts and Nevis forms of Legislative Council, partly elected and partly nominated, were abolished by an Act of 1878, and the Crown Colony system substituted.

The Dominica Legislative Council, like that in Antigua, was changed in 1898, but in 1924 an Ordinance was passed allowing for the election of four of the unofficial members.

The Montserrat Legislative Council was similarly changed in 1866.

There has been no Legislative Council in the Virgin Islands since 1902.

In 1936 steps were taken to reconstitute the Presidential Legislative Councils with unofficial majorities, and with partly elected and partly nominated unofficial members. The reconstituted Legislative Councils came into being in 1937.

Municipal Government.—In Antigua (St. John's) there is a (partly unofficial) municipal body called the "City Commissioners"; in Dominica there is a partly elected Town Council at Roseau, and a nominated Town Board at Portsmouth.

III.—POPULATION.

The estimated population on 31st December, 1937, was as follows:—

		Area (Sq. miles).	*Principal Town (approximate population).*
Antigua	33,471	108	St. John's (10,000).
Barbuda	1,052	62	—
St. Kitts	18,694	68	Basseterre (8,000).
Nevis	13,724	50	Charlestown (1,200).
Anguilla	5,639	34	—
Dominica	49,483	305	Roseau (8,000).
Montserrat	13,712	32	Plymouth (2,000).
Virgin Islands	6,288	67	Road Town (400).
Total	142,063	726	

The decennial census of 1931 was not taken in view of the financial condition of the Colony in that year, but the percentages of the different races at the time of the previous census were as stated below, and, although the population has now generally increased, it is probable that the proportions are about the same.

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Montserrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*
White	4	3	1½	1	1
Coloured	13	16	31½	21	23
Black	83	81	67	78	76

The birth and death rates per 1,000 in 1937 were as follows:—

	Birth-rate.	*Death-rate.*
Antigua	40·08	24·22
Barbuda	38·76	12·18
St. Kitts	43·22	33·80
Nevis	29·94	13·30
Anguilla	34·23	12·50
Dominica	30·35	14·51
Montserrat	32·75	15·31
Virgin Islands	32·16	8·89

Infantile mortality for the past five years has been as follows:—

	1933.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
Antigua and Barbuda	175	125	105	111	171
St. Kitts	180	229	200	190	223
Nevis	73	104	204	241	113
Anguilla	76	116	99	182	80
Dominica	126	107	97	100	119
Montserrat	134	94	130	120	167
Virgin Islands	165	69	109	140	135

The emigration and immigration figures of the Colony about balance during recent years. Before the embargo on free emigration to the United States, Cuba, and Puerto Rico, the emigration figures considerably outnumbered those of immigration. There is still a certain amount of emigration for work

on the sugar estates in the Dominican Republic, but it is seasonal, and the men usually return the same year. The Government of Panama is repatriating British West Indian labourers at its expense.

IV.—HEALTH.

General.

The Colony, which from November to May is only semi-tropical, is gradually becoming known as a health resort, and more visitors are coming yearly, especially during the winter months, from the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States of America.

Hospitals are established in the principal centres, and there are 25 Government Medical Officers stationed throughout the Colony. There is also a system of village dispensaries. Water supplies in most of the islands are good and plentiful. Legislation regarding bakeries and dairies is in force, and the meat markets are regularly inspected. The ordinary diseases found in tropical countries prevail, but not usually in a serious form. Cases of ankylostomiasis, filariasis, dysentery, malaria, tuberculosis, venereal diseases, and yaws, are found in varying numbers.

There is a central lunatic asylum (176 patients) at Antigua, and leper homes at Antigua (35 patients) and St. Kitts (40 patients).

The teeth of the school children in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis have been receiving special care from dentists subsidized by the Government. Homes for the aged and infirm are now established in Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica and Montserrat.

Antigua.

Public health work started by General Barrow has been continued on the lines initiated by him. The bacteriological laboratory, which was part of the scheme, has been found most useful. There were 3,367 examinations made, 1,580 of which were blood films for malaria, 787 Kahn test, 323 differential blood counts, 30 Widal tests and various other tests.

Venereal diseases are treated by Medical Officers in their offices and at dispensaries situated throughout the island.

Infant Welfare is arranged for at the central crêche (a voluntary organization) in St. John's and at three Government crêches in the villages of All Saints, Bolans, and Cedar Grove. These crêches are usually full. Free dental inspection and treatment at the Government schools has been continued and is a very valuable adjunct to the child welfare of the community.

Mortality and Disease.—There were 1,192 births and 710 deaths during the year. There were approximately 3,062 cases of malaria during the year, mostly of the subtertian type, with 49 deaths in all. Six sanitary inspectors are engaged to superintend the cleaning up and drainage in the villages. Stagnant water is treated with Paris green or oil. Quinine is distributed without charge when funds permit.

Hospital.—There is a hospital with an X-ray room and 90 beds. There were 472 males and 497 females admitted during the year. The average period spent in hospital was 29 days for males, and 28 days for females.

There were 83 deaths, 41 males and 42 females. The number of major operations was 114, and minor operations 467. There were 66 ophthalmic cases and 7 cases of eclampsia. The rebuilding of the men's surgical ward was completed.

Home for the aged and infirm (*Fiennes Institute*).—69 males and 67 females were admitted. There were 87 deaths, chiefly from diseases incidental to old age.

Dispensaries.—There are now 13 Government dispensaries in Antigua and one in Barbuda. There are 25 Government district nurses, who are also midwives.

There is a quarantine station and, as already mentioned, a leper home and a lunatic asylum, the latter being a Federal institution.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The general health of the Presidency is good.

Malaria fever occurs in Nevis, where the anopheles mosquito is found, principally in the bog lands adjoining Charlestown, and to a lesser degree in the small water-courses on the northern side of the island. In Anguilla the cases seen are among those labourers who have returned from Santo Domingo. Cases seen in St. Kitts are all imported. Anophelene mosquitoes have not been detected in St. Kitts.

Infant welfare.—Infant welfare work progresses. Since the movement was started and crêches under the supervision of the District Matron were provided, infant mortality in St. Kitts has decreased from 409·6 per 1,000 living births in 1920, to 223 in 1937.

Hospitals.—The central hospital at Basseterre, St. Kitts, has 81 beds and 4 maternity beds. Other hospitals are at Sandy Point, St. Kitts (16 beds), Nevis (between 30 and 40 beds) and Anguilla (8 beds). There are homes for the aged and the infirm at Basseterre (50 beds) and at Nevis (12 beds). The leper home in the Sandy Point district has 40 inmates.

Staff.—The Presidency is divided into seven medical districts (St. Kitts four, Nevis two, and Anguilla one). There are three European nursing sisters in the Presidency, one of whom is District Matron and trains pupil midwives. There are eight Sanitary Inspectors working under the supervision of the Senior Medical Officer. Dental clinics are held regularly by the Government Dental Officer, and the attention to the teeth of the elementary school children should produce results, in the years to come, in the general health of the people. Dispensaries are established in different parts of the medical districts.

Dominica.

The Chief Medical and Health Officer is in general charge of all matters concerned with public health.

Infant Welfare.—The Roseau and the St. John's Child Welfare Committees maintained their special clinics during 1937. These are voluntary committees in receipt of Government grants. The Roseau Clinic is held in the out-patients' department of the Roseau Hospital and is directed by the Matron. The St. John's Clinic serves the town and district of Portsmouth. At the beginning of March, 1936, a third infant welfare centre was inaugurated at Marigot under the auspices of the Marigot Village Board and has been well supported. The total number of children under three years of age on the registers of those three centres during 1937 was 465.

Sanitation.—The sanitation of the towns of Roseau and Portsmouth has continued under the control of the Roseau Town Council and the Portsmouth Town Board, respectively, with their own sanitary officers. Under the Medical and Sanitary Services Ordinance, 1935 (No. 9 of 1935), the Central Board of Health has powers to make regulations for the rest of the island with respect to various matters of public health, and the sanitary organization includes ten sanitary inspectors for the most important districts. Special efforts have been directed against ankylostomiasis, malaria, tuberculosis and yaws.

Mortality and Disease.—The birth-rate of 30·35 for 1937 was below the average for the five-year period 1931-5, which was 32·74. The death-rate of 14·51 was also below the average. The infant mortality rate was 119. Deaths at all ages from all forms of tuberculosis numbered 54, out of a total of 711 deaths from all causes. Malaria, which is endemic, accounted for 57 deaths. Deaths from diarrhœa and enteritis numbered 32.

Hospitals.—There is a Central Hospital at Roseau with 100 beds; admissions in 1937 numbered 1,359. Country hospitals are maintained at Portsmouth (33 beds), Marigot (6 beds), and Grand Bay (4 beds), with respectively 718, 120 and 125 admissions during the year. At Roseau there is also a home for the aged and infirm with accommodation for about 30 inmates. Eighteen dispensaries are maintained in the four medical districts.

Staff.—There are four District Medical Officers under the Chief Medical Officer. Six dispensers (including two who are the stewards of the Roseau and Portsmouth Hospitals) assist the Medical Officers. The training of nurses and midwives is under the supervision of the European Matron of the Roseau Hospital. In addition to 22 native nurses on the staffs of the hospitals, twelve nurse-midwives are employed in the districts.

Montserrat.

The general health of the population was not as good as in the previous year, and the death-rate was slightly higher, 15·31 per 1,000.

Gastro-enteritis accounted for many deaths among young children during the year, and during the first quarter of the year there was an epidemic of influenza, with a marked tendency to broncho-pneumonia.

The new Glendon Hospital was opened in February, 1937 and 511 patients were treated during the year.

Yaws and Syphilis.—These diseases continued to show a decrease, and the cases presenting themselves for treatment were followed up closely and given adequate treatment.

Virgin Islands.

The health of the Presidency has been generally satisfactory. Malaria is on the wane, and is not of a severe type. There were 8 cases of typhoid. During the year there were 236 admissions to the hospital with 7 deaths, and there were 50 deliveries without any maternal or infant deaths.

Staff.—The medical staff of the Presidency consists of one medical officer, one European nursing sister and one sanitary officer in Tortola and one dispenser at Anegada Island.

V.—HOUSING.

Antigua.

The Housing Scheme, financed originally from the Colonial Development Fund, has improved the type of house used by the poorer classes and with it goes improvement in living conditions of the people. The houses are mainly of standard type and consist of three rooms and a verandah, with a separate latrine and kitchen. The houses are very sanitary and easily disinfected. The demand for houses in the model village was not maintained in 1937. In addition to the model village, similar houses under the same scheme have been erected on the Antigua land settlement area at Greencastle, at the village of All Saints, and at other places. One of the most valuable aspects of the scheme is that it is proving an encouragement and an incentive to others of the artisan and peasant class to build new houses for themselves and a much improved type of house is appearing in many parts of the island.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Some estates provide a few wooden houses free of rent to their more reliable labourers.

A scheme for improving housing conditions in Basseterre and Sandy Point was commenced late in 1930, and up to the present 61 model concrete houses have been built for labourers and artisans, 45 at Basseterre and 16 at Sandy Point.

This scheme was made possible by assistance from the Colonial Development Fund which took the form of a free grant of £6,500 and a loan of a similar sum, free of interest for five years. A total sum of £8,126 6s. 2d. has so far been spent. Further construction is in abeyance pending reconsideration of the type of house and its cost and conditions of sale.

The cottages consist of three rooms and an entrance verandah. The cost of each cottage, including outbuildings and fences, but excluding land, is £122.

The larger residencies and places of business are of two storeys, the lower, generally speaking, of stone and the upper of wood. These buildings are provided with hurricane shutters as the islands are almost in the centre of the hurricane zone.

Dominica.

The commonest type of dwelling-house used by the wage-earning population is a single storey wooden structure, usually elevated from the ground by a few stones or wooden supports about a foot high. The roof is made of shingles or corrugated iron except in a few areas where the poorer houses are thatched. The interior may be divided into two or three compartments by wooden partitions; a door and two or three windows with shutters communicate with the exterior. The size of the building varies from 10 ft. by 8 ft. by 8 ft. to 20 ft. by 16 ft. by 10 ft. On an average about five persons occupy each of these dwelling-houses.

In the two towns, Roseau and Portsmouth many of the lots are owned by landlords who erect houses thereon and let them at a weekly rental of 1s. 6d. per room, i.e., 3s. to 4s. 6d. per house; or they may let small areas for building. In the country districts the occupant more often has built his own house of native lumber, on a portion of land purchased by himself. The building is done with the help of his neighbours and at a very small cost since skilled labour is not employed.

The dwelling-house may or may not be provided with a roughly-made kitchen adjoining it, or the cooking may be done in the open. Water is obtained from the nearest standpipe, river or stream. Sanitary conveniences are often entirely lacking, the inhabitants depending on communal latrines where such are provided by the Government, or on common dumping grounds often in close proximity to houses. The great defect in the housing accommodation lies not in the house itself but in the surroundings and in the lack of sanitation. There is marked congestion, especially in the towns and villages of the Leeward coast, caused by the absence of town or village-planning. Overcrowding and lack of ventilation favour the spread of tuberculosis and other infectious diseases.

In Roseau and Portsmouth, by-laws compel intending builders to obtain permission from the Town Council or Town Wardens. The Roseau Town Council passed a new Buildings By-Law in 1933 repealing the Buildings By-Law, 1899, and making more stringent the conditions which have to be complied with in the erection of any new building. Among its new provisions may be mentioned the following:—the minimum frontage of any new building facing a street or other public place is increased from 16 to 21 feet, definite spaces are required to be left between the buildings and the boundaries of the site; a minimum floor area of 120 square feet is laid down for any living room in a dwelling-house; provision of latrine accommodation of a type approved by the Council is made compulsory for every new building intended to be used as a dwelling-house, shop factory or place of business. Provision is also made for the evacuation of any dwelling-house, which the Medical Officer of Health represents to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.

In the country districts there is no legislation in force governing buildings; a few of the larger estates provide dwelling-houses for a certain number of their labourers, but this practice has largely died out. There are no building societies in existence.

Montserrat.

Many new buildings of reinforced concrete or wood have replaced the old earthquake-damaged buildings and many others are being built. Nearly all new buildings are provided with sanitary water closets and septic tanks.

Two houses were built during the year under the Colonial Development Concrete Housing Scheme. The cost of the houses is however too high for many applicants, and a revised scheme is being considered.

Virgin Islands.

The Housing conditions in the British Virgin Islands, while possibly not ideal, are considerably better than those prevailing elsewhere in the Leeward Islands. The average house of the peasant is a sturdy wooden building measuring about 20 ft. by 15 ft. with an acre or more of arable land. The present living conditions seem admirably suited to the population which consists almost entirely of small landowners and fishermen. The wage-earning population is very small, being practically restricted to the limits of the town of Road Town in Tortola. Sanitary conditions are satisfactory and general health is good. A local Board of Health controls the general health and sanitation.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Sugar, cotton, limes and lime products, oranges, grapefruit, bananas, cocoa and table vegetables are the chief products of the Colony. The following table summarises the principal exports of local produce of the whole colony for the year 1937 compared with the previous year:—

		1936.		*1937.*	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£		£
Avocado pears	crates	5,158	1,171	4,972	746
Bananas	bunches	104,041	8,597	121,764	11,024
Bay oil	lb.	21,287	3,230	—	2,998
Cattle	...	1,583	5,369	1,637	5,493
Cocoa	lb.	354,578	4,168	274,108	4,984
Coconuts	No.	774,084	2,199	1,112,156	3,509
Copra	lb.	319,076	1,702	155,044	986
Cotton	lb.	1,138,055	75,245	1,133,726	81,899
Cotton seed	tons	600	1,973	410	1,664
Grapefruit	crates	3,038	1,586	4,375	1,871
Lime juice, raw	gal.	140,610	5,757	171,813	7,148
Lime oil, distilled	lb.	10,500	11,729	8,733	7,622
Lime oil, ecuelled	lb.	1,800	2,045	1,667	2,666
Limes, green	brls. & crates	6,500	6,203	9,997	7,556
Mangoes	brls.	8,616	3,164	6,078	2,481
Molasses	gal.	1,152,391	11,930	1,169,103	17,113
Oranges	brls. & crates	10,786	7,319	11,447	7,058
Rum	gal.	9,515	1,359	9,802	1,578
Salt	tons	2,000	3,190	1,900	3,116
Sugar	tons	46,651	417,199	64,741	647,957
Tomatoes	crates	68,000	7,113	43,010	6,193

Antigua.

There are two modern sugar factories, one at Gunthorpes, owned by the Antigua Sugar Factory Company (Henckel, Dubuisson and Company), and one at Bendals owned by the South Western Estates Company. The capacity of the former is approximately 22,000 tons and that of the latter 4,000 tons.

The average rainfall in 1936 was 60 ins. and the record 1937 sugar crop amounted to 32,501 tons grey crystals and 371 tons muscovado. Sugar exports amounted to 31,667 tons crystals valued at £318,603 and 100 tons muscovado valued at £1,000 together with 679,410 gallons of pan molasses valued at £9,360.

The average yield of canes per acre was 25·1 tons as compared with 16·3 in 1936.

The Antigua Sugar Factory paid 16s. 4·3d. per ton for canes for the 1937 crop and the Bendals Factory 14s. per ton.

During the year expenditure was continued from the loan which was obtained from the Colonial Development Fund in 1936 to cover the cost of certain extensions of the railway systems of the two factories. These extensions, one of which was completed in 1937, will be of great assistance, especially to peasants, many of whom cultivate land far removed from the present railway lines and are faced with uneconomic tranportation costs.

The 1937 cotton crop was reaped from 950 acres: the total production was 91,111 lb. clean lint and 5,829 lb. stains. The crop was sold at prices varying from 1s. 9d. to 1s. 11d. per lb. for clean lint and 8d. to 1s. for stains.

The area planted for the 1937-8 crop was about 1,600 acres. Germination was fair but most fields suffered badly from the very heavy rains early in November and in the latter half of December, while the cotton caterpillar did considerable damage in many districts.

The Government Land Settlement Schemes continue to develop. During 1937 the Factories purchased from peasants 64,000 tons of cane.

Sugar cane experiments were continued during 1937: definite results are now being obtained and it is hoped that in a few years' time the application of these results to general agricultural practice will lead to economic increases on yield throughout the island.

Further entomological investigations were conducted by Mr. H. E. Box on the control of the moth borer of sugar cane.

During 1936 a step was taken to further the interests of peasant cultivators through the establishment of a branch of the Agricultural Department devoted especially to the development of peasant industries, particularly cotton and vegetables.

The following table shows the relative exports of the principal products of Antigua over a period of five years:—

	1933.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
Sugar (tons)	23,875	20,677	16,072	19,759	31,667
„ (value) ... ...£	234,920	196,534	151,249	181,293	318,603
„ acreage of cane reaped ...	9,450	9,686	9,800	12,800	12,900
Molasses (gal.)	520,232	808,459	324,562	536,177	679,410
„ (value) ...£	1,084	2,515	2,188	3,351	9,360
Cotton (lb.)	8,400	9,600	32,950	117,380	91,111
„ (value) ... ...£	420	480	2,062	8,988	6,951
Lime juice, raw (gal.) ...	9,189	3,712	6,916	6,106	1,170
„ „ „ (value) £	557	142	305	154	33
Tamarinds (barrels) ...	495	152	461	522	—
„ (value) ...£	427	93	295	522	506
Rum (gal.)	—	851	2,008	6,425	6,381
„ (value) ... ...£	—	133	293	935	1,080

St. Kitts-Nevis.

There is one central modern sugar factory, owned by the Basseterre Sugar Factory Company (Henckel, Dubuisson Co.), of an original capacity of approximately 20,000 tons, which has since been considerably increased. It is connected to the various sugar estates by a narrow-gauge railway encircling the island. 34,260 tons of crystal sugar, of approximately 96 degrees polarization, were made. The area under cane was about 9,029 acres, giving an average yield of over 28·4 tons to the acre.

Recently the planters have made serious efforts to increase the yields of cane by the introduction of parasites for the control of insect pests, and by an extended use of artificial fertilizers.

All estates have a certain number of contract labourers, who live in estate houses and receive free medical attention and a free plot of land for growing ground provisions and vegetables.

Small quantities of muscovado sugar and fancy molasses were manufactured in Nevis.

Four thousand one hundred and sixty-eight acres were planted with cotton in 1937 and 448,019 lb. of lint produced.

There are Government agricultural instructors in Nevis and Anguilla, who pay visits to peasants' holdings and endeavour to improve their methods of agriculture.

Progress has been made with the land settlement schemes in Nevis and Anguilla.

The following table shows the relative exports of the principal products of St. Kitts-Nevis over a period of five years:—

	1933.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
Sugar (tons)	22,588	28,320	27,280	26,892	33,074
„ (value) ... ...£	234,747	260,000	236,964	236,959	329,354
Molasses (gal.)	630,749	973,000	453,999	474,024	489,693
„ (value) ...£	2,897	2,027	5,126	6,562	7,753
Cotton (lb.)	88,550	141,687	204,647	508,295	398,862
„ (value) ... ...£	4,701	8,200	10,327	33,885	29,588
Coconuts	56,953	105,646	95,157	9,030	7,868
„ (value) ...£	289	228	215	26	16
Tomatoes (lb.)	28,637	12,000	15,880	14,220	—
„ (value) ..£	221	105	120	100	—
Salt (tons)	34	1,302	1,677	2,500	2,000
„ (value) ... ...£	9	2,056	2,188	3,173	2,968

Dominica.

There was a general increase in the production of agricultural products and exports showed an improvement of £6,109 in their estimated f.o.b. value as compared with 1936.

The lime industry is showing definite signs of recovery and the crop was estimated at about 45,000 barrels of fruit. The principal lime products exported and their estimated f.o.b. values were as follows:—

Green limes 4,450 barrels, £6,644; Raw Juice 110,765 gal., £4,679; Distilled Oil 8,213 lb., £7,057.

The fresh fruit export trade, excepting that in grapefruit, has shown satisfactory expansion. Increased shipments of oranges, mangoes and avocado pears were made and prices ruling were on the whole satisfactory to shippers.

An improvement in the price of copra and co-operation among coconut growers to develop an export trade in dry coconuts has resulted in a revival of interest in the coconut industry.

Although the price of cocoa showed improvement, adverse weather conditions seriously affected production.

The demand for vanilla showed considerable improvement and resulted in a big increase in production with prices better than they have been for a number of years.

A few of the principal estates are owned by Europeans, but the majority belong to local planters. There is a preponderance of peasant holdings which contribute to the production of staple products as well as to supplying produce for local consumption.

The raising of livestock is left to individual enterprise and the number raised is only sufficient for local needs.

There is no organized fishing industry, but natives engage in fishing to supply the local demand for fresh fish.

The following table shows the relative exports of the principal products of Dominica over a period of five years:—

		1933.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
Limes, total crop estimated as "barrels"	...	36,000	27,000	28,214	36,825	45,000
Limes, green or fresh (barrels)	... ...	4,391	3,790	4,035	3,865	4,450
Limes, green or fresh (value)	... ...£	4,033	4,598	6,123	5,968	6,644
Lime juice, raw (gal.)	...	37,770	74,908	48,074	88,460	110,765
" " " (value)	...£	1,889	4,523	2,002	3,686	4,679
Lime juice, concentrated (gal.)	... ...	35,467	7,462	3,372	2,783	1,735
Lime juice, concentrated (value)	... ...£	1,817	273	184	198	130
Lime oil, distilled (lb.)		9,302	6,288	7,127	9,189	8,733
" " " (value)	£	10,288	6,418	7,443	9,612	7,622
Lime oil, ecuelled (lb.)		320	245	140	350	1,667
" " " (value)	£	353	393	186	565	2,666
Bay oil (lb.)	... ...	21,774	14,988	16,474	21,282	—
" " (value)	...£	3,630	2,206	2,421	3,229	2,998
Oranges (crates and barrels)	...	7,255	7,192	8,850	10,786	11,747
" (value)...	...£	3,268	4,324	5,764	7,319	7,058
Grapefruit (crates)	...	5,981	3,167	5,386	3,038	4,375
" (value)	...£	2,684	1,403	2,596	1,586	1,871
Avocado pears (crates)		2,946	4,344	3,726	5,158	4,845
" " (value)	£	567	838	744	1,171	719
Mangoes (crates)	...	6,872	4,084	3,462	8,616	6,056
" (value)	...£	931	1,225	1,363	3,164	2,477
Cocoa (lb.)	... ...	358,112	324,333	344,156	354,578	274,108
" (value) ...	...£	2,550	2,983	3,459	4,168	4,984
Coconuts	... ...	109,357	103,639	230,170	719,554	1,046,312
" (value)	...£	223	249	452	1,991	3,271
Copra (lb.)	... ...	105,237	247,508	278,793	273,612	116,016
" (value) ...	...£	882	836	1,066	1,497	773
Rum (gal.)	... ...	24,660	17,521	10,179	3,090	3,339
" (value) ...	...£	3,811	2,281	1,428	424	480
Vanilla (lb.)	... ...	21	797	609	4,341	9,537
" (value) ...	...£	2	109	152	868	4,048
Bananas (bunches)	...	22,304	37,850	71,527	99,858	114,812
" (value)	...£	889	3,253	5,780	8,391	10,658
Hardwood (ft.) ...	...	65,193	108,466	95,407	131,638	100,000
" (value)	...£	405	965	537	710	531
Tobacco Leaf (lb.)	...	1,834	12,800	5,823	3,042	—
" (value)...	...£	144	1,031	349	178	—
Canoes & shells	...£	164	267	456	660	474

Montserrat.

During the year the island suffered through failure of the cotton crop as the result of adverse weather conditions. Exports of vegetables showed a marked increase; lime products, however, found limited demand. Economic conditions were generally unfavourable compared with the previous year.

The area planted in cotton in 1937 was about 4,500 acres, slightly more than that in the previous year. Throughout the growing and harvesting period the crop was handicapped by unfavourable weather. Prolonged drought delayed the early establishment of fields; excessive moisture in the later stages made harvesting and drying of seed cotton difficult, encouraged the development of insect pests and boll diseases and placed difficulties in the way of securing an absolutely reliable and satisfactory seed supply for the following season. The total output of clean lint was 637,723 lb. Prices showed a slight increase and severe competition existed in the local market for supplies of seed cotton.

The crop was readily disposed of at prices ranging from 1s. 7d. to 1s. 9d. per lb. of lint in the United Kingdom and on the Continent.

Tomato cultivation was greatly extended and peasants realized remunerative returns. Other vegetables also found a demand in the Canadian and inter-Colonial market and the industry generally did much to assist peasants in tiding over depressed conditions which attended the cotton crop.

Lime fields also suffered to a considerable extent from the prolonged drought conditions which occurred during the first half of the year. Green limes and lime products found a limited demand abroad; it was possible to avoid any losses on the Canadian market through shipping only on cabled orders from brokers.

The following table shows the relative exports of the principal products of Montserrat during the past five years:—

	1933.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
Cotton (lb.)	599,631	826,581	1,018,041	605,176	637,723
,, (value) ... ...£	24,577	41,329	54,106	33,950	44,860
,, (acreage planted)	2,187	3,106	4,438	4,450	4,500
Cotton seed (tons) ...	216	340	455	418	240
,, ,, (value) ...£	723	1,294	1,625	1,097	954
Limes, green or fresh (crates)	9,071	3,674	4,521	568	4,897
Limes, green or fresh (value) ... ...£	1,324	3,674	1,742	652	780
Lime juice, raw (gal.)	48,691	18,183	79,771	46,046	59,878
,, ,, ,, (value) £	4,231	698	3,417	1,917	2,436
Lime Oil ... ...£	2,000	2,133	2,309	1,835	3,036
Other vegetables ...£	626	855	1,154	455	340
Tomatoes (crates of 20 lb.)	8,110	8,097	18,334	45,868	40,942
,, ,, ,, (value) £	1,309	1,350	2,733	6,975	5,891
Onions (lb.)	50,906	65,495	27,630	49,467	12,967
,, (value) ... ...£	335	397	149	226	58

Virgin Islands.

During the year 1936-7 cotton crop amounting to 6,364 lb. of lint was shipped to England.

The Commissioner of Agriculture has strongly recommended perseverance in cotton as the staple industry and in consequence a five-year plan has been devised to establish it on a sound footing. A free grant of £500 was obtained in 1936 from the Colonial Development Fund for the eradication of cotton pest host plants, *Thespesia* and *Eriodendron;* and the work is well in hand.

A scheme for tobacco cultivation which was started in 1934 has been revived and there are signs of activity in this industry. Tobacco is being cultivated by a greater number of peasants. A site has been purchased and a factory has been erected at Peter Island.

No arrangements for contract or for non-contract labour are in force and as practically everyone is possessed of his own land paid labour is difficult to obtain.

Cattle, sheep, goats and horses comprise the main items in the livestock industry, while poultry raising is an important secondary industry. The following figures show the estimated annual production:—

		Produced.	*Exported.*
Cattle	No.	1,400	1,100
Sheep	No.	620	545
Goats	No.	2,460	1,460
Poultry	Doz.	275	175
Swine	No.	720	570
Fish	lb.	60,000	20,000
Fruit and vegetables ...		£1,700	1,300

LIVESTOCK OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Although mechanical ploughs are very suitable for the hard clay soils of Antigua, cattle will for a long time be needed as plough and draught animals in that island and also in St. Kitts-Nevis and Dominica. In the former island a mixed strain with imported Mysore or zebu blood has been found very useful. Horses are used principally by the planters and overseers for riding about the estates. Mules are used to a certain extent for ploughing in both St. Kitts and Antigua. Donkeys are largely the means of transport of the labouring classes. Sheep are only required for the meat markets, and are usually of poor quality. Goats, pigs, and poultry are bred in large quantities for food purposes by the labouring classes.

In Antigua and St. Kitts there are qualified Government veterinary surgeons, who inspect all livestock on importation, examine market animals before and after slaughter, and periodically examine milking cattle. They also look after the health of all horses and mules belonging to the Government. They are allowed private practice among the estates of the island.

An investigation has been made into the incidence of Bovine Tuberculosis in Antigua and measures to combat this disease are receiving consideration.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The total values of the imports and exports of the Colony for the past five years have been as follows:—

	1933. £	*1934.* £	*1935.* £	*1936.* £	*1937.* £
Imports from—					
United Kingdom ...	269,129	245,654	231,319	278,282	298,781
Canada	109,089	112,635	121,792	133,333	154,102
Rest of Empire ...	93,473	86,203	98,948	103,588	147,933
United States of America	75,022	79,973	82,273	95,268	109,074
Other foreign countries	54,780	53,602	44,593	51,913	62,243
Total	601,493	578,067	578,925	662,384	772,133
Exports to—					
United Kingdom ...	387,345	379,628	299,481	321,104	685,195
Canada	108,997	119,170	184,242	218,978	83,661
Rest of Empire ...	21,265	36,200	40,859	48,053	48,381
United States of America.	20,321	16,957	17,439	16,836	30,941
Other foreign countries	21,688	25,221	29,681	26,462	28,703
Total	559,616	577,176	571,702	631,433	876,881
Percentage of value of exported sugar to total exports	81	77	70	66	74

From the above it will be seen that sugar forms the bulk of the Colony's exports, and that any lowering of the value of sugar exports, due to hurricane, drought, or low prices, is at once reflected not only in the total export trade but automatically in the import trade, because there is less money in circulation. The percentages of imports are as follows:—

	1933. per cent.	*1934.* per cent.	*1935.* per cent.	*1936.* per cent.	*1937.* per cent.
United Kingdom ...	44	42	40	42	39
Canada	18	20	21	20	20
Rest of the Empire ...	16	15	17	15	19
United States of America	12	13	14	15	14
Other foreign countries	10	10	8	8	8

It is interesting to note the extent to which the position of the United Kingdom has been maintained, in spite of the fact that £1 now buys £1 worth of goods in the United States, as contrasted with 13s. worth in 1932 and 1933, after the departure of Great Britain from the Gold Standard. Owing, however, to the lower rate of import duty on British goods, the revenues of the Colony have suffered. The trade with the United Kingdom in motor-cars, shoes, groceries, cotton, and fancy goods might be still further developed, but not by correspondence. Visits of commercial travellers with samples are very necessary.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The day wages of field labourers vary from 1s. to 2s. for men and 6d. to 10d. for women, with about 3s. 6d. to 6s. for artizans. The wages of domestic servants are from 4s. to 12s. a week. Most of the field work on the estates is done by the task, and in the crop season labourers frequently perform two tasks a day, earning from 16s. to 20s. a week. In addition to this estate labourers are usually provided with free medical attendance, houses, and land for planting provisions.

For office workers and professional men the cost of living is about the same as in the country districts of England. The rent of bungalows or small houses is about £40 to £60 a year. The hotels, which are more like small boarding houses, charge between 8s. 4d. and 16s. 8d. a day. The average prices of foodstuffs per lb. are:—bread 4d., flour 3d., fish 4d., beef 8d., and milk 4d. per qt.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education.

Elementary or primary schools (all free and undenominational) are maintained by Government throughout Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica, and are State-aided in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands. There is an advisory Board of Education in each Presidency. A sum of £27,187 was provided for education in 1937. Pupil teachers are trained locally for three years, and then selected ones are awarded studentships for higher training at the Training College in Trinidad for men, or the Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College at Antigua for women. As the outcome of the Mayhew-Marriott Reports, the whole system of education in the West Indies is being considered by two Education Commissioners, Messrs. S. A. Hammond and H. W Stokes, who have their headquarters in Trinidad and travel about from Colony to Colony.

Antigua.

The Boys' Grammar School, founded in 1884, is open to all races and denominations, but is the property of the Anglican diocese of Antigua. There are about 60 boys on the roll. The teaching staff consists of a headmaster and three whole time and four part time assistants. The Government subsidy in 1937 was £500, in part return for which seven free Government scholarships of £12 a year are given.

The Girls' High School, founded 1886, is open to all races and denominations, and has about 80 pupils, some 20 being boarders. The teaching is arranged for by a headmistress, a deputy, and five assistant mistresses, resident at the school. The Government subsidy in 1937 was £200, in part return for which there are five free Government scholarships.

The T. O. Robinson Memorial School, founded in 1898, is open to all races and denominations and has about 60 pupils, boys and girls. Miss Robinson, the proprietress, is aided by a teaching staff, and all the usual facilities for instruction and recreation are afforded. There is a School Board, and the Government pays a subsidy of £90 a year.

In Antigua there are 20 Government elementary or primary schools and several small private ones; at Barbuda there is a primary school managed by the Anglican authorities and receiving a Government grant of £90 per annum. There is at St. John's a small night school, held in a Government school-building, under the auspices of Toc H.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Secondary education in St. Kitts is provided for by a Government Grammar Schools for boys, a Government subsidized High School for girls and a school managed by the Nuns of the Order of Missionary Canonesses of St. Augustine.

In Nevis there is also a Government subsidized school for both boys and girls. The standard aimed at is that of the Cambridge School Certificate.

There are 16 primary schools in St. Kitts; of these three are for infants, two for boys, and two for girls only.

In Nevis there are ten primary schools, one for infants, two for boys, two for girls and five mixed. There are five schools in Anguilla. An Inspector of Schools for the Presidency is stationed in St. Kitts, and in each of the other islands there is an Educational District Officer.

The number of children on the roll for the whole Presidency is 7,867.

There are two Homes for the Poor and Infirm in the Presidency, one at Basseterre, St. Kitts, and the other at Charlestown, Nevis.

Dominica.

Government maintains 28 primary schools at which the total enrolment in 1937 amounted to 7,734. There are five other schools of this nature operating, three of which receive a grant-in-aid from public funds; the remaining two are unaided and controlled by the Roman Catholic Body. Secondary education for boys is obtainable at the Government Grammar School in Roseau where the average attendance during the year was 40. The fees payable at this institution aggregate £6 *per capita* for the year and there are three scholarships available every year representing an annual value of £9 in the case of those from town schools and £19 in that of schools in the districts.

In addition to the foregoing the Order of the Faithful Virgin maintains, with the assistance of Public Funds, a Convent for girls, 65 attending in 1937; while the Wesley High School for girls had an attendance of 12; the fees for attendance at the former institution vary from 12s. to £2 10s. per term in the various stages of the school, those of the latter from 24s. to 33s.

There is also a lower boys' secondary school designed to meet the needs of the poorer classes, named St. Mary's Academy; it is under the control of the Bishop of Roseau and has an average attendance of 35 boys. The fees for attending this school vary from 15s. to 25s. per term.

Night schools exist at Roseau and Portsmouth, and agricultural instruction is obtainable both at the Government primary schools and at the Botanical Gardens.

Montserrat.

A sum of £2,726 was spent on education in 1937.

There were 12 elementary schools staffed by 33 teachers and 28 pupil teachers. The scholars on the roll numbered 2,853.

A grammar school for boys is maintained by the Government; the cost in 1936 was £600. A secondary school for girls and children receives a Government grant of £100 a year. Scholarships tenable at both secondary schools are awarded to scholars from primary schools.

Virgin Islands.

1,268 children are enrolled in the primary schools, all denominational and Government-aided. There are no secondary schools.

Welfare.

A small reformatory school exists at Antigua for about 20 boys. Reference has already been made in the chapter on the health of the Colony to homes for the aged and infirm and to the crêche system in the various Presidencies. A number of Mutual Friendly Societies exist with funds for sickness and burials, organized either in conjunction with the different churches or of an undenominational character.

There are Lodges of Freemasons in most of the Presidencies.

The principal religious denominations in the Colony are the Anglican, Wesleyan, Moravian Mission, Roman Catholic (very numerous in Dominica), and some minor sects of American origin. The Salvation Army has also rendered useful service of a general nature for some years past. There are now about

250 boy scouts and 400 girl guides in the Colony. The Toc H Association has been established in Antigua, the first branch in the West Indies.

Recreation.

Forms of recreation are plentiful for all classes. Sea-bathing in the warm blue-green water off the palm-fringed white beaches of Antigua and Anguilla is as good as can be found anywhere in the world; and in places in the other islands is also very good. Sailing and fishing are indulged in to a limited extent. Cricket is a sport that appeals to popular enthusiasm throughout the islands, and the inter-Presidential annual tournament always creates the greatest excitement. Tennis clubs exist in all the Presidencies, and it can be played on grass courts all the year round. Association football has become popular in recent years during the winter months. There is a 9-hole golf course at Antigua.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Sea.

The principal islands of the Colony are served by the following steamship companies:—

Canadian National.—From Canada.
Ocean Dominion.—From Canada.
Bermuda and West Indies (Funess Withy).—From New York.
American Carribbean Line.—From New York.
Harrison Line.—From England.
Compagnie Générale Transatlantique.—From Havre.

Smaller steamships of the Dutch Line also call at St. Kitts, and schooners and sloops make irregular calls at most of the islands. His Majesty's ships from the American and West Indies Station (headquarters, Bermuda), occasionally spend a few days among the islands, particularly in the winter months. During 1937, 1,275 British steamships, of a total tonnage of 5,221,364 tons, and 523 foreign steamships, of a total tonnage of 1,043,363 tons, entered and cleared the ports of the Colony.

Air.

The branch of Pan-American Airways that flies between Miami and Trinidad calls regularly for passengers and mails on Mondays and Fridays at Antigua.

Roads.

In Antigua there are 166 miles of roads (65 miles being main roads), traversed by motors, carriages, ox waggons, horses, and donkeys; the latter, pannier-carrying, being a feature of peasant transport for produce. There are also motor-omnibus services in most of the Presidencies. In St. Kitts there is a main road 30 miles in length encircling the island. In Nevis there is a similar encircling road 18 miles in length. Anguilla has about 20 miles of good roads, but there are only about a dozen cars on the island. Dominica roads are a most difficult problem owing to the mountains and rivers and frequent landslides. There are now about 270 miles of roads of which 68 are motor roads. A launch service takes the place of an impassable road between Roseau and Portsmouth. Montserrat has 68 miles of roads, but not more than about half this distance is really suitable for motor traffic. The Virgin Islands have no motor roads outside Road Town, all land traffic being by horseback or donkey-back.

As mentioned in Chapter VI, there are narrow-gauge railways in Antigua and St. Kitts, but these are only for sugar transport.

Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones.

There are central Post Offices at St. John's, Basseterre, Roseau, Plymouth and Road Town; and 16 sub-offices in Antigua, 10 in St. Kitts-Nevis, 13 in Dominica, 4 in Montserrat, and 4 in the Virgin Islands. There is an annual overseas traffic of about two million letters and postal packages.

The telephone service throughout the islands is of the metallic earth system. In addition to a central exchange in each of the larger islands there are 2 sub-exchanges and 308 subscribers in Antigua; 3 sub-exchanges and 246 subscribers in St. Kitts-Nevis; 5 sub-exchanges and 146 subscribers in Dominica; and 2 sub-exchanges and 49 subscribers in Montserrat. There are also a few miles of telephone service in Anguilla.

The wireless telegraph system (owned by Cable and Wireless, Ltd.), is established at Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica, and a similar one, owned by the Government but operated by the Company in Montserrat.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

British currency is legal tender throughout the Colony, but in the Virgin Islands, where there is no bank and where practically all trade is done with St. Thomas, either American or Danish currency circulates along with British. Government accounts are kept in all the Presidencies in sterling, but in the banks and in many commercial houses the dollar system is used at a standard rate of $4.80 to the £. Barclay's Bank (D.C.O.) has branches at Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica. The Royal Bank of Canada has branches at Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat. These banks pay a Government stamp duty of £62 10s. 0d. per annum each in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis, £25 in Dominica and £15 in Montserrat. Each has a note issue of $5 notes, to the amount of between $30,000 and $50,000 in circulation. They each have a Savings Bank section, which was paying 1½ per cent. interest on deposits in 1936. Government Savings Banks also operate in the principal islands. Amounts to the credit of depositors, on which interest is paid at 2½ per cent., were as follows:—

Government Savings Banks.

	31st December, 1933. £	*31st December, 1934.* £	*31st December, 1935.* £	*31st December, 1936.* £	*31st December, 1937.* £
Antigua	16,534	16,968	17,890	20,040	24,758
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	3,925	4,115	4,375	5,394	6,875
Dominica ...	5,409	5,056	4,899	6,180	6,573
Montserrat ...	724	627	667	689	1,321
Virgin Islands ...	1,756	1,296	2,587	3,371	2,349
Total for the Colony	28,348	28,062	30,418	35,674	41,876

There are no Agricultural Banks, except a small privately-managed one in the Virgin Islands.

Weights and Measures.

Weights and measures are standard Imperial and are periodically examined by Government inspectors.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Antigua.

A Superintendent of Public Works is assisted by a road overseer and assistant road overseer, a clerk, a storekeeper and a temporary draughtsman. The Superintendent is also Chairman of the St. John City Commissioners, and has for staff a city clerk and a junior clerk.

Works undertaken during the year consisted of the usual maintenance of Government buildings, property, waterworks and roads.

The new Customs warehouse in steel and reinforced concrete to take the place of the dilapidated old wooden structure, and the new store for the Public Works Department which were started in 1936, were completed.

Colonial Development Fund works.—Progress was made with the road reconstruction scheme, comprising the roads to Fort James and to English Harbour via the Antigua Sugar Factory and All Saints, and the rebuilding of certain of the city streets, including a bridge at the south end of Market Street to deal with storm water. The greater part of this work was completed. Approval was received at the end of the year for a further scheme of road reconstruction estimated to cost £12,673.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Staff.—A Surveyor of Works (who is also Superintendent of Telephones), assisted by a clerk, and by an executive officer in Nevis, constitute the principal staff in this Presidency. Nothing much beyond ordinary maintenance work was possible during the year. The improvement in the streets of Basseterre continues to be effected by oiling the surface and making concrete drains and pavements.

Colonial Development Fund works.—The Nevis Land Settlement Scheme continues to make progress.

Dominica.

Staff.—A Colonial Engineer assisted by two road overseers and an electrician comprise the senior Public Works staff here.

Works undertaken.—During the past year the chief undertaking of the Public Works Department was the completion of the road from Portsmouth to Hatton Garden costing £36,000. The cost of this work was financed from Colonial Development Funds.

During the last few months of the year torrential rains were experienced, with heavy floods causing considerable damage to roads, bridges, etc.

Montserrat.

Staff.—An Inspector of Works and Roads works under the general supervision of the Commissioner. He is also in charge of the telephone system.

A programme of reconstruction work costing £21,000 which was started in 1936 and which included the reconstruction of the hospital, Belham Bridge, the prison, the Court House and Government House was continued during the year.

Colonial Development Fund works.—The extension of the water supply to country villages and the laying of concrete drains in the villages have greatly improved the conditions of life of the labouring peasant population.

Virgin Islands.

The Commissioner supervises any public works. No work of importance was undertaken in 1937.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The Superior Courts of the Colony are presided over by the Chief Justice or Puisne Judge. Circuit Courts, with a jury of nine, are held three times a year each at Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat, and, as occasion requires, at Tortola. The Attorney-General or the Crown Attorneys have the function of a Grand Jury. A Court of Summary Jurisdiction, without a jury, for civil cases where less than £50 is involved, is held monthly in Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica, and the Virgin Islands, on alternate months in Montserrat, and quarterly in Anguilla. The Commissioners of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands act as Deputy Judges for this purpose. Appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the West Indian Court of Appeal, and from the Summary Courts to the Supreme Court. Magistrates in each Presidency deal with minor cases. In Antigua there are two Magistrates (one being for Barbuda), in St. Kitts-Nevis four, in Dominica three, and in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands one each (the Commissioners). The principal Magistrate in St. Kitts and Dominica is also the Crown Attorney. Appeals from the Magistrates' Courts go to a Judge of the Supreme Court, and in further appeal to the Full Court, which is held twice a year in Antigua and consists of the Chief Justice and Puisne Judge. The time for the payment of fines may be deferred, or they may be paid in instalments.

In each Presidency there are Justices of the Peace, but with very limited powers. Any two may act for a Magistrate, if the latter is an interested party. First offenders are frequently bound over and the assistance of one of the clergy invoked to help the person. Juvenile offenders are usually dealt with at a separate hour of the Court or else in the Magistrate's room.

The following table shows the number of convictions for various crimes and offences for the last four years:—

	Summary convictions :—	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
1.	Offences against the person ...	1,253	1,138	1,213	1,253
2.	Praedial larceny	403	513	460	489
3.	Malicious injuries to property ...	36	40	27	18
	Offences against property (other than praedial larceny and malicious injuries to property)	310	291	312	338
4.	Other crimes	1,445	1,997	1,755	1,516
	Offences against the Masters and Servants Act, including Acts relative to Indentured Coolies	62	81	119	139
	Offences against Revenue Laws, Municipal, Road and other Laws relating to the social economy of the Colony ...	2,578	2,731	3,101	2,535
	Miscellaneous minor offences ...	3,019	2,883	2,748	3,274
	Totals	9,106	9,674	9,735	9,562

	Convictions in the Superior Courts :—	1934	1935	1936	1937
1.	Murder of wife or concubine ...	—	—	—	—
	Murder of child	2	—	—	—
	Murder other than wife, concubine or child	5	—	—	2
	Manslaughter	1	1	—	1
2.	Attempted Murder	—	—	1	1
	Rape	—	4	4	2
	Unnatural crime	—	—	2	—
	Other Offences against the person	18	24	77	12
3.	Praedial larceny	3	7	5	12
4.	Offences against property with violence to the person... ...	—	—	1	—
	Other offences against property...	42	31	37	25
5.	Other crimes	13	15	29	16
	Total	84	82	156	71

Police.

The Police Force is a Federal one and consists of two Superintendents, four Assistant Superintendents, and 148 N.C.Os. and men, all under the command of a Commissioner who has his headquarters at Antigua. A Superintendent and an Assistant Superintendent are usually stationed in Dominica, and in St. Kitts-Nevis. In Montserrat there is an Assistant Superintendent. The Commissioner of Police is also Commandant of the Defence Force of the Colony, and the Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents hold rank therein as Captains and Lieutenants respectively.

The period of first enlistment and re-engagement for N.C.Os. and men is three years. All men take part in musketry training and ambulance work in addition to their ordinary police duties. There are also 350 local constables enrolled, who can be called upon when required for extra assistance in the country districts.

Prisons.

The central prison for the Colony is at St. John's, Antigua. It has accommodation for 90 males and 47 females, and is staffed by a head warder, a matron, nine wardens and one wardress. £752 was expended on personal emoluments during the year. Instruction is given to the male prisoners in carpentry, tinsmithing, baking, and to the females in laundry and sewing. Elementary education is voluntarily given to some of the more illiterate prisoners by certain members of the Toc H. Association, and the Prison Chaplain gives instruction in religion. Prisoners are also employed within the prison on stone-breaking, cleaning, etc., and certain of the male prisoners outside on roadwork, in the Botanic gardens, pauper cemetery, and other public institutions. The prison bakery made over 30,000 lb. of bread during the year, supplying both the Prison and the Reformatory Training School.

155 males and 29 females were committed during the year, 18 males and 1 female coming from other Presidencies. The daily average was 80 males and 5 females. There are 77 individual cells for males and 25 for females; and 1 association cell for 5 males, and 1 for females. There is an average of about 500 cubic feet of cell space per prisoner. There is also an infirmary on the male side to hold 9 and another on the female side to hold 3. The Prison Medical Officer pays daily visits. Prisoners who are seriously ill are treated under suitable precautions at the island hospital. The are 10 Visiting Justices to the Prison, who hold periodical meetings there to enquire into complaints and to consider questions of prison discipline. The boys' Reformatory School has already been referred to in the chapter on Education.

Numbers of prisoners.

Daily average in Prisons of the Colony for five years.

	1933.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
Antigua (Central Prison)	51	24	22	69	85
St. Kitts-Nevis	41	48	64	80	42
Dominica	36	49	55	67	45
Montserrat	10	8	7	7	9
Virgin Islands ...	—	—	—	3	—
Total	138	129	148	226	181

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The prison is at Basseterre and consists of a group of stone buildings surrounded by a 14 ft. wall. On the male side there are 16 cells of 18 ft. by 10 ft. each, and on the female side 10 cells of about the same size. The average cubic foot space per prisoner is 714 ft.

223 males and 69 females were committed during the year, mostly on short sentences. The staff consisted of a keeper and six male warders and a matron and a wardress at a cost of £647. Prisoners are taught and employed in the same manner as at Antigua, and sick prisoners are dealt with in similar fashion.

Dominica.

The prison is at Roseau, and consists of a group of stone buildings enclosed by a high stone wall. There are 20 cells for males and 8 for females, with an average cubic space per prisoner of 672 ft.

223 males and 139 females were committed during the year, mostly on short sentences. The staff consisted of a keeper, six male warders, a matron, and one wardress, at a cost of £519. Prisoners are taught and employed in the same manner as at Antigua, and sick prisoners are dealt with in similar fashion.

Montserrat.

The present prison at Plymouth is stone-built. There are 8 cells for males and 3 for females, with an average cubic space per prisoner of about 600 ft. 102 males and 8 females were committed during the year. The staff consisted of a keeper, a male warder, and a matron, at a cost of £157. Male prisoners with sentences over six months and females with sentences of over two months are transferred to the Antigua Prison. Owing to damage to buildings by earthquakes an additional warder is employed temporarily for night duty. A new prison is being constructed as the present one has been condemned owing to damage by earthquakes.

Virgin Islands.

The prison at Tortola is a large stone building more than sufficient for the needs of the Presidency. Only 10 prisoners were committed during the year. The staff consisted of a keeper, who is also the Corporal of Police, and a matron, at a cost of £14.

All the prisons of the Colony are kept scrupulously clean, and in St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat the Superintendents of Police have supervising powers as officers-in-charge of prison discipline.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Colony.

The General Legislative Council met in April and November, 1937. Legislation governing workmen's compensation and minimum wages for labour was enacted to comply with the provisions of certain International Labour Conventions. A much needed revision of the Medical Act, the Lepers Act and Dangerous Drug legislation were also enacted.

Antigua.

The Savings Bank law was revised and brought up to date. An Ordinance providing for the imposition of a quota on sugar exports was passed.

Dominica.

The laws relating to Trade and Professional licences and Savings Bank were revised and brought up to date. An Ordinance was passed revising the constitution of the Roseau Town Council and another important item of legislation regulated the opening hours of shops.

Montserrat.

No important legislation.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Ordinances providing for the continuance of a 25 per cent. surtax on customs imports and for the remission of export duty on sugar, etc., were passed.

Virgin Islands.

The Savings Bank Ordinance was revised and brought up to date. Certain amendments were made in the customs tariff.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The following is a comparative table of the local revenue and expenditure of the Colony as a whole and its five component Presidencies for the past five financial years:—

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Montserrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*	*Leeward Islands Colony.*
1933.						
Revenue ...	88,061	91,714	57,207	17,564	4,485	259,031
Expenditure	81,006	82,896	64,360	26,763	6,782	261,807
Surplus or Deficit ...	+7,055	+8,818	−7,153	−9,199	−2,297	−2,776
1934.						
Revenue ...	80,620	101,847	52,332	18,189	4,531	257,519
Expenditure	80,351	86,497	63,837	22,750	5,874	259,309
Surplus or Deficit ...	+269	+15,350	−11,505	−4,561	−1,343	−1,790
1935.						
Revenue ...	83,846	101,595	51,846	29,140	7,328	273,755
Expenditure	85,420	92,189	62,896	25,927	5,881	272,313
Surplus or Deficit ...	−1,574	+9,406	−11,050	+3,213	+1,447	+1,442
1936.						
Revenue ...	84,734	107,751	52,925	25,667	4,993	276,070
Expenditure	88,849	96,648	64,162	26,650	5,501	281,810
Surplus or Deficit ...	−4,115	+11,103	−11,237	−983	−508	−5,740
1937.						
Revenue ...	111,118	123,500	65,119	30,176	13,481	343,394
Expenditure	90,325	104,713	68,858	32,025	6,576	302,497
Surplus or Deficit ...	+20,793	+18,787	−3,739	−1,849	+6,905	+40,897

The following sums were received by the Colony from Imperial Funds during the year:—

	£
Antigua—	
Loan in aid of administration	1,000
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes ...	20,481
St. Kitts-Nevis—	
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes	303
Dominica—	
Loan in aid of administration, agriculture, etc.	5,000
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes ...	3,507
Montserrat—	
Loan in aid of administration	2,700
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes ...	204
Virgin Islands—	
Grant for Colonial Development scheme	1,200

The outstanding Public Debts and Sinking Funds of the Colony as at 31st December, 1937 were as follows:—

	Total Debt.	*Sinking Fund (Market value).*
	£	£
Antigua	67,875	13,143
St. Kitts-Nevis	59,331	31,994
Dominica	196,603	1,517
Montserrat	12,979	2,611
Virgin Islands	Nil	Nil
Total	336,788	49,265

The main heads of taxation and their yields were approximately as follows:—

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Montserrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Customs ...	54,513	62,672	27,694	13,412	2,576	160,867
Harbour, etc., dues	2,315	12,398	3,192	408	126	18,439
Internal Revenue ...	23,163	26,645	12,457	5,003	1,221	68,489
Fees	8,745	3,491	3,639	1,007	420	17,302
Post Office Telephones, Light, etc.	15,268	16,296	13,957	9,882	8,664	64,067
Miscellaneous ...	5,474	240	4,007	150	34	9,905

The Customs Tariff is arranged on either an *ad valorem* or a specific basis. The *ad valorem* rate is mainly on manufactured articles and is usually 10 per cent. British preferential and 15 per cent. general. As a result of the Ottawa Conference, certain improvements in favour of Empire goods were made in the tariffs throughout the Colony. Quotas were established for foreign textiles in 1934. Excise duties are leviable on locally made spirits or tobacco in such Presidencies as make them. Stamp duties are governed by Federal Statutes and are uniform throughout the Colony. There is no hut or poll tax. Receipts from sales of stamps in the Colony totalled £52,674 in 1937 on account of the Coronation issue. The receipts for 1936 were £12,249.

APPENDIX.

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Leeward Islands Blue Book	—	Do. do.	Annually	8s. 4d.
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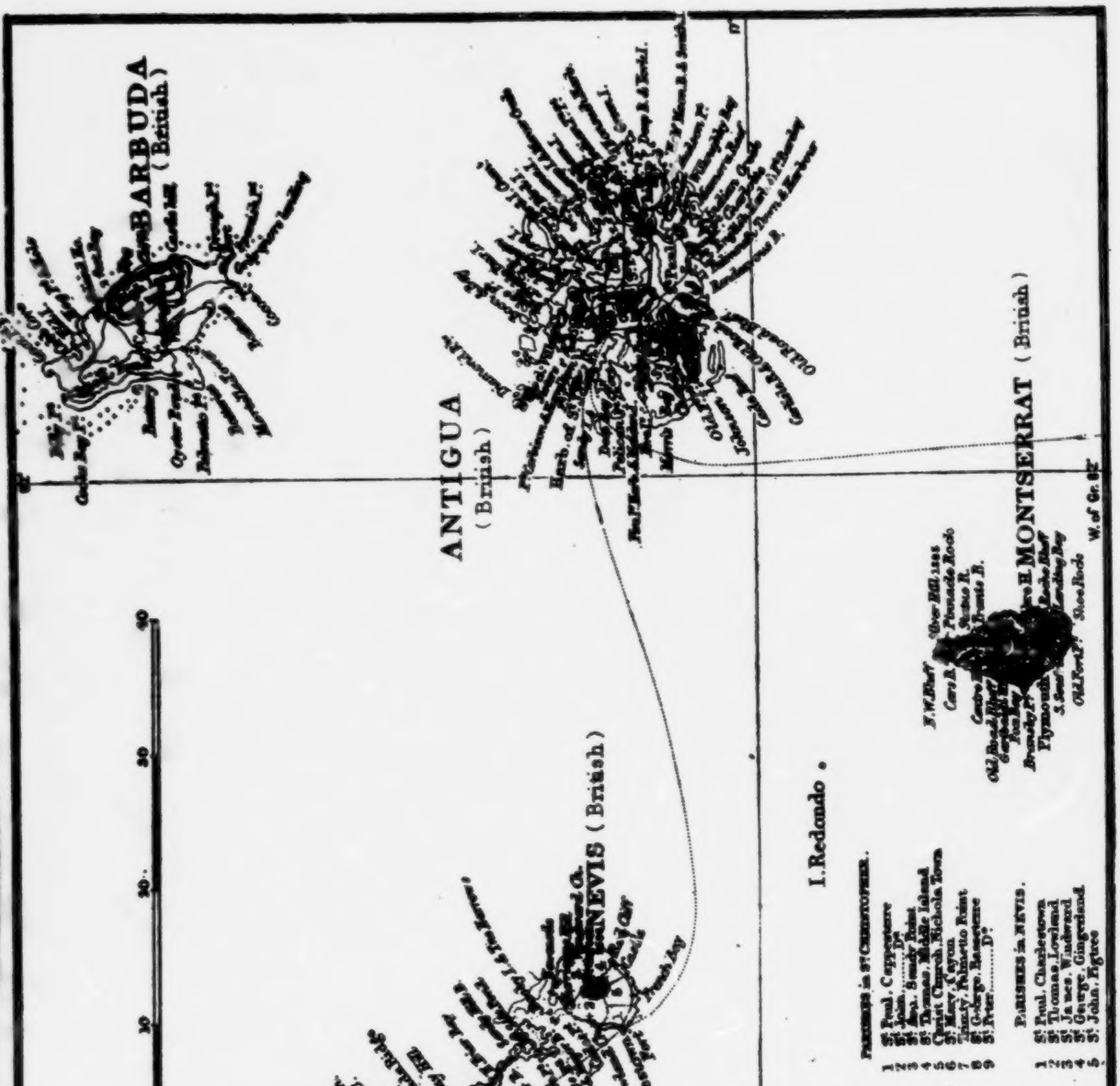
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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR 1938.

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Colony of the Leeward Islands, with a total area of 726 square miles, consists of a number of islands belonging partly to the Lesser Antilles and partly to the Greater Antilles. Antigua, Barbuda, St. Christopher (St. Kitts), Nevis, and Montserrat lie between West longitude 61° and 63°, and around North latitude 17°, but Dominica is about 100 miles to the south, separated by the French island of Guadeloupe from the rest. The Virgin Islands, Sombrero, and Anguilla on the other hand lie some distance away to the north-west. The Virgin Islands, St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat, and Dominica are mostly volcanic in origin with mountains rising to 1,780, 3,711, 3,596, 3,002, and 4,750 feet respectively, while Antigua, Barbuda, and Anguilla are sedimentary and are subject to drought.

All the islands are refreshed by the cooling trade winds, though Dominica, with its heavy intervening mountain system, becomes hot and steamy at certain times of the year. The rainfall registered at the different Botanic Stations during 1938 was as follows:—Antigua 51 inches, St. Kitts 58 inches, Dominica 108 inches, Montserrat 52 inches, Virgin Islands 56 inches. The mean temperature was 78° F.

Politically the Colony is divided into five Presidencies:—(*a*) Antigua, with Barbuda and Redonda, (*b*) St. Christopher-Nevis, with Anguilla, (*c*) Dominica, (*d*) Montserrat, and (*e*) the British Virgin Islands (which are in close proximity to the American Virgin Islands). These five Presidencies have been united and separated at various times in their history, and were finally federated in 1871 by an Imperial Act.

From a historical point of view the Leeward Islands Colony is one of the most interesting in the Empire.

St. Kitts was the first island in the West Indies to be systematically colonized by the English, Sir Thomas Warner, captain of the King's Body Guard, bringing out a number of farmers and artisans for that purpose in 1623. In 1666, 1689, and 1782 it was captured by the French, and in the latter year the famous defence of Brimstone Hill took place, a gallant action which ultimately enabled Rodney to defeat the French fleet at " The Saints " near Dominica and save the then Colonial Empire.

In Nevis, in 1787, Nelson, then aged 25, and acting as Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands Naval Station, married the young widow Nisbet, who survived him. In 1757 Alexander Hamilton, the son of a Scottish planter and the founder of the American Constitution, was born in Nevis.

Antigua is the headquarters of the Colony and the residence of the Governor. The island was settled by Sir Thomas Warner's son in 1632, and only once, in 1666, was it captured by the French. At Antigua is the historic old Naval Dockyard, first built in 1725, where Nelson lived between 1785 and 1787. It lies in a romantic narrow inlet, English Harbour, and is to-day just as it was left when the last of the old frigates was warped out. Efforts are now being made to preserve the ruined buildings so that it may be an Empire memorial to the Navy.

Dominica was originally declared as neutral territory between the French and English, but became English by the Treaty of Paris in 1763. In 1771 it was made a separate Colony, but was rejoined to the Leeward Islands in 1832. During that period, however, it was captured and held by the French for five years until restored to England by the Treaty of Versailles in 1783.

In 1805 the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (the old 46th) and the local militia distinguished themselves in a gallant resistance to General La Grange and a great invading force.

Montserrat was settled by Sir Thomas Warner in 1632, but was captured (and subsequently restored) by the French in 1666 and 1782

The Virgin Islands were first settled by Dutch farmers, who became buccaneers in 1648. English buccaneers drove them out in 1666, and in 1672 the islands were absorbed into the Leeward Islands Colony. For a long time the islands were the haunts of pirates.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

There is one Governor of the Colony, and his representatives in the Presidencies of Antigua, Dominica, and St. Christopher-Nevis are styled Administrators, and in those of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, Commissioners.

The Colony possesses a Federal Executive and a General Legislative Council, the members of the former and the official members of the latter being appointed by the Crown, while the unofficial members of the latter (three each from Antigua and St. Christopher-Nevis, two from Dominica, and one from Montserrat) are elected by and from the unofficial members of the Legislatures of their respective Presidencies. There is also a nominated unofficial member for the Virgin Islands on the General Legislative Council.

Each Presidency has an Executive and a Legislative Council, with the exception of the Virgin Islands, which has an Executive Council only. The Presidential Legislative Councils have concurrent legislative powers with the General Legislative Council on specified subjects so far as their " Ordinances " are not repugnant to the " Acts " of the latter. The duration of each Legislative Council is limited to three years.

The Antigua Legislative Council, previously partly elected and partly nominated, passed an Act in 1898 abrogating itself and substituting the Crown Colony system.

The St. Kitts and Nevis forms of Legislative Council, partly elected and partly nominated, were abolished by an Act of 1878, and the Crown Colony system substituted.

The Dominica Legislative Council, like that in Antigua, was changed in 1898, but in 1924 an Ordinance was passed allowing for the election of four of the unofficial members.

The Montserrat Legislative Council was similarly changed in 1866.

There has been no Legislative Council in the Virgin Islands since 1902.

In 1937 the Presidential Legislative Councils of Antigua, Dominica, St. Christopher-Nevis and Montserrat were reconstituted with unofficial majorities, and with partly elected and partly nominated unofficial members.

Municipal Government.—In Antigua (St. John's) there is a (partly unofficial) municipal body called the " City Commissioners "; in Dominica there is a partly elected Town Council at Roseau, and a nominated Town Board at Portsmouth.

III.—POPULATION.

The estimated population on 31st December, 1938, was as follows:—

		Area (Sq. miles).	*Principal Town (approximate population).*
Antigua	34,123	108	St. John's (10,000).
Barbuda	1 000	62	—
St. Kitts	17,886	68	Basseterre (8,000).
Nevis	13 966	50	Charlestown (1,200).
Anguilla	5 717	34	—
Dominica	50 617	305	Roseau (8,000).
Montserrat	13,670	32	Plymouth (2,000).
Virgin Islands ...	6,364	67	Road Town (400).
Total	143,343	726	

The decennial census of 1931 was not taken in view of the financial condition of the Colony in that year, but the percentages of the different races at the time of the previous census were as stated below, and, although the population has now generally increased, it is probable that the proportions are about the same.

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Montserrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*
White ...	4	3	1½	1	1
Coloured ...	13	16	31½	21	23
Black ...	83	81	67	78	76

The birth and death rates per 1,000 in 1938 were as follows:—

	Birth-rate.	*Death-rate.*
Antigua	41·50	22·59
Barbuda	47·57	12·17
St. Kitts	45·86	31·99
Nevis	28·49	11·17
Anguilla	26·76	13·12
Dominica	29·52	12·98
Montserrat	34·30	15·40
Virgin Islands	37·54	24·30

Infantile mortality for the past five years has been as follows:—

	1934.	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
Antigua and Barbuda ...	125	105	111	171	142
St. Kitts	229	200	190	223	155
Nevis	104	204	241	113	98
Anguilla	116	99	182	80	131
Dominica	107	97	100	119	85
Montserrat	94	130	120	167	129
Virgin Islands ...	69	109	140	135	213

The emigration and immigration figures of the Colony about balance during recent years. Before the embargo on free emigration to the United States, Cuba, and Puerto Rico, the emigration figures considerably outnumbered those of immigration. There is still a certain amount of emigration for work

on the sugar estates in the Dominican Republic, but it is seasonal, and the men usually return the same year. The Government of Panama is repatriating British West Indian labourers at its expense.

IV.—HEALTH.

General.

The Colony, which from November to May is only semi-tropical, is gradually becoming known as a health resort, and more visitors are coming yearly, especially during the winter months, from the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States of America.

Hospitals are established in the principal centres, and there are 25 Government Medical Officers stationed throughout the Colony. There is also a system of village dispensaries. Water supplies in most of the islands are good and plentiful. Legislation regarding bakeries and dairies is in force, and the meat markets are regularly inspected. The ordinary diseases found in tropical countries prevail, but not usually in a serious form. Cases of ankylostomiasis, filariasis, dysentery, malaria, tuberculosis, venereal diseases, and yaws, are found in varying numbers.

There is a central lunatic asylum (180 patients) at Antigua, and leper homes at Antigua (35 patients) and St. Kitts (41 patients).

The teeth of the school children in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis have been receiving special care from dentists subsidized by the Government. Homes for the aged and infirm are now established in Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica and Montserrat.

Antigua.

Public health work started by General Barrow has been continued on the lines initiated by him. The bacteriological laboratory, which was part of the scheme, has been found most useful. Approximately 3,500 examinations were made in 1938.

Venereal diseases are treated by Medical Officers in their offices and at dispensaries situated throughout the island.

Infant Welfare is arranged for at the central crèche (a voluntary organization) in St. John's and at three Government crèches in the villages of All Saints, Bolans, and Cedar Grove. These crèches are usually full. Free dental inspection and treatment at the Government schools has been continued and is a very valuable adjunct to the child welfare of the community.

Mortality and Disease.—There were 1,198 births and 652 deaths during the year. There were approximately 2,500 cases of malaria during the year, mostly of the subtertian type, with 14 deaths in all. Six sanitary inspectors are engaged to superintend the cleaning up and drainage in the villages. Stagnant water is treated with Paris green or oil. Quinine is distributed without charge when funds permit.

Hospital.—There is a hospital with an X-ray room and 91 beds. There were 530 males and 519 females admitted during the year. The average period spent in hospital was 26 days for males, and 21 days for females.

There were 90 deaths, 47 males and 43 females. The number of major operations was 120, and minor operations 300.

Home for the aged and infirm (Fiennes Institute).—62 males and 82 females were admitted. There were 88 deaths, chiefly from diseases incidental to old age.

Dispensaries.—There are now 13 Government dispensaries in Antigua and one in Barbuda. There are 25 Government district nurses, who are also midwives.

There is a quarantine station and, as already mentioned, a leper home and a lunatic asylum, the latter being a Federal institution.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The general health of the Presidency is good.

Malaria fever occurs in Nevis, where the anopheles mosquito is found, principally in the bog lands adjoining Charlestown, and to a lesser degree in the small water-courses on the northern side of the island. In Anguilla the cases seen are among those labourers who have returned from Santo Domingo. Cases seen in St. Kitts are all imported. Anophelene mosquitoes have not been detected in St. Kitts.

Infant welfare.—Infant welfare work progresses. Since the movement was started and crèches under the supervision of the District Matron were provided, infant mortality in St. Kitts has decreased from 409·6 per 1,000 living births in 1920, to 155 in 1938.

Hospitals.—The central hospital at Basseterre, St. Kitts, has 81 beds and 4 maternity beds. Other hospitals are at Sandy Point, St. Kitts (16 beds), Nevis (between 30 and 40 beds) and Anguilla (8 beds). There are homes for the aged and the infirm at Basseterre (50 beds) and at Nevis (12 beds). The leper home in the Sandy Point district has 41 inmates.

Staff.—The Presidency is divided into seven medical districts (St. Kitts four, Nevis two, and Anguilla one). There are three European nursing sisters in the Presidency, one of whom is

District Matron and trains pupil midwives. There are eight Sanitary Inspectors working under the supervision of the Senior Medical Officer. Dental clinics are held regularly by the Government Dental Officer, and the attention to the teeth of the elementary school children should produce results, in the years to come, in the general health of the people. Dispensaries are established in different parts of the medical districts.

Dominica.

The Chief Medical and Health Officer is in general charge of all matters concerned with public health.

Infant Welfare.—The Roseau and the St. John's Child Welfare Committees maintained their special clinics during 1938 These are voluntary committees in receipt of Government grants. The Roseau Clinic is held in the out-patients' department of the Roseau Hospital and is directed by the Matron. The St. John's Clinic serves the town and district of Portsmouth. At the beginning of March, 1936, a third infant welfare centre was inaugurated at Marigot under the auspices of the Marigot Village Board and has been well supported. The total number of children under three years of age on the registers of those three centres during 1938 was 364.

Sanitation.—The sanitation of the towns of Roseau and Portsmouth has continued under the control of the Roseau Town Council and the Portsmouth Town Board, respectively, with their own sanitary officers. Under the Medical and Sanitary Services Ordinance, 1935 (No. 9 of 1935), the Central Board of Health has powers to make regulations for the rest of the island with respect to various matters of public health, and the sanitary organization includes ten sanitary inspectors for the most important districts. Special efforts have been directed against ankylostomiasis, malaria, tuberculosis and yaws.

Mortality and Disease.—The birth-rate of 29·52 for 1938 was below the average for the five-year period 1934-8, which was 32·41. The death-rate of 12·98 is the lowest recorded and well below the average for the previous five years which was 16·01. The infant mortality rate of 85 also compares favourably with an average of 104 for the previous five years. Deaths at all ages from all forms of tuberculosis numbered 61, out of a total of 648 deaths from all causes. Malaria, which is endemic, accounted for 49 deaths. Deaths from diarrhœa and enteritis numbered 29. Each of these figures represents a reduction in mortality as compared with previous years, and 1938 may be accounted a very healthy year for the island.

Hospitals.—There is a Central Hospital at Roseau with 100 beds; admissions in 1938 numbered 1,421. Country hospitals are maintained at Portsmouth (33 beds), Marigot (6 beds), and Grand Bay (4 beds), with respectively 664, 133 and 78 admissions during the year. At Roseau there is also a home for the aged and infirm with accommodation for about 30 inmates. Eighteen dispensaries are maintained in the four medical districts.

Staff.—There are four District Medical Officers under the Chief Medical Officer. Six dispensers (including two who are the stewards of the Roseau and Portsmouth Hospitals) assist the Medical Officers. The training of nurses and midwives is under the supervision of the European Matron of the Roseau Hospital. In addition to 22 native nurses on the staffs of the hospitals, ten nurse-midwives are employed in the districts.

Montserrat.

The general health of the population was not as good as in the previous year, and the death-rate was slightly higher, 15·40 per 1,000.

Gastro-enteritis accounted for many deaths among young children during the year, and during the last quarter of the year an epidemic of influenza, with a marked tendency to broncho-pneumonia, took quite a toll of infants and young children.

At the Glendon Hospital 452 patients were treated during the year.

Virgin Islands.

The health of the Presidency has been generally satisfactory. Malaria is on the wane, and is not of a severe type. During the year there were 221 admissions to the hospital with 7 deaths, and there were 50 deliveries without any maternal or infant deaths.

Staff.—The medical staff of the Presidency consists of one medical officer, one European nursing sister and one sanitary officer in Tortola and one dispenser at Anegada Island.

V.—HOUSING.

Antigua.

The Housing Scheme, financed originally from the Colonial Development Fund, has improved the type of house used by the poorer classes and with it goes improvement in living conditions of the people. The houses are mainly of standard type and consist of three rooms and a verandah, with a separate latrine and kitchen. The houses are very sanitary and easily disinfected. In addition to the model village, similar houses under the same scheme have been erected on the Antigua land settlement area at Greencastle, at the village of All Saints, and at other places. One of the most valuable aspects of the scheme is that it is proving an encouragement and an incentive to others of the artisan and peasant class to build new houses for themselves and a much improved type of house is appearing in many parts of the island.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Some estates provide a few wooden houses free of rent to their more reliable labourers.

A scheme for improving housing conditions in Basseterre and Sandy Point was commenced late in 1930, and up to the present 61 model concrete houses have been built for labourers and artisans, 45 at Basseterre and 16 at Sandy Point.

This scheme was made possible by assistance from the Colonial Development Fund which took the form of a free grant of £6,500 and a loan of a similar sum, free of interest for five years. A total sum of £8,126 6s. 2d. has so far been spent. Further construction is in abeyance pending reconsideration of the type of house and its cost and conditions of sale.

The cottages consist of three rooms and an entrance verandah. The cost of each cottage, including outbuildings and fences, but excluding land, is £122.

The larger residencies and places of business are of two storeys, the lower, generally speaking, of stone and the upper of wood. These buildings are provided with hurricane shutters as the islands are almost in the centre of the hurricane zone.

Dominica.

The commonest type of dwelling-house used by the wage-earning population is a single storey wooden structure, usually elevated from the ground by a few stones or wooden supports about a foot high. The roof is made of shingles or corrugated iron except in a few areas where the poorer houses are thatched. The interior may be divided into two or three compartments by wooden partitions; a door and two or three windows with shutters communicate with the exterior. The size of the building varies from 10 ft. by 8 ft. by 8 ft. to 20 ft. by 16 ft. by 10 ft. On an average about five persons occupy each of these dwelling-houses.

In the two towns, Roseau and Portsmouth many of the lots are owned by landlords who erect houses thereon and let them at a weekly rental of 1s. 6d. per room, i.e., 3s. to 4s. 6d. per house; or they may let small areas for building. In the country districts the occupant more often has built his own house of native lumber, on a portion of land purchased by himself. The building is done with the help of his neighbours and at a very small cost since skilled labour is not employed.

The dwelling-house may or may not be provided with a roughly-made kitchen adjoining it, or the cooking may be done in the open. Water is obtained from the nearest standpipe, river or stream. Sanitary conveniences are often entirely lacking, the inhabitants depending on communal latrines where such are provided by the Government, or on common dumping grounds often in close proximity to houses. The great defect in the housing accommodation lies not in the house itself but in the surroundings and in the lack of sanitation. There is marked congestion, especially in the towns and villages of the Leeward coast, caused by the absence of town or village-planning. Overcrowding and lack of ventilation favour the spread of tuberculosis and other infectious diseases.

In Roseau and Portsmouth, by-laws compel intending builders to obtain permission from the Town Council or Town Wardens. The Roseau Town Council passed a new Buildings By-Law in 1933 repealing the Buildings By-Law, 1899, and making more stringent the conditions which have to be complied with in the erection of any new building. Among its new provisions may be mentioned the following:—the minimum frontage of any new building facing a street or other public place is increased from 16 to 21 feet, definite spaces are required to be left between the buildings and the boundaries of the site; a minimum floor area of 120 square feet is laid down for any living room in a dwelling-house; provision of latrine accommodation of a type approved by the Council is made compulsory for every new building intended to be used as a dwelling-house, shop factory or place of business. Provision is also made for the evacuation of any dwelling-house, which the Medical Officer of Health represents to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.

In the country districts there is no legislation in force governing buildings; a few of the larger estates provide dwelling-houses for a certain number of their labourers, but this practice has largely died out. There are no building societies in existence.

Montserrat.

Many new buildings of reinforced concrete or wood have replaced the old earthquake-damaged buildings and many others are being built. Nearly all new buildings are provided with sanitary water closets and septic tanks.

One house only was built during the year under the Colonial Development Concrete Housing Scheme. A revised Housing Scheme is under consideration.

Virgin Islands.

The Housing conditions in the British Virgin Islands, while possibly not ideal, are considerably better than those prevailing elsewhere in the Leeward Islands. The average house of the peasant is a sturdy wooden building measuring about 20 ft. by 15 ft. with an acre or more of arable land. The present living conditions seem admirably suited to the population which consists almost entirely of small landowners and fishermen. The wage-earning population is very small, being practically restricted to the limits of the town of Road Town in Tortola. Sanitary conditions are satisfactory and general health is good. A local Board of Health controls the general health and sanitation.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Sugar, cotton, limes and lime products, oranges, grapefruit, bananas, cocoa and table vegetables are the chief products of the Colony. The following table summarises the principal exports of local produce of the whole colony for the year 1938 compared with the previous year:—

		1937.		*1938.*	
		Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £
Avocado pears ...	... crates	4,972	746	6,304	1,322
Bananas	... bunches	121,764	11,024	84,166	8,368
Bay oil	... lb.	—	2,998	28,666	3,936
Cattle	... ...	1,637	5,493	1,453	4,853
Cocoa	... lb.	274,108	4,984	394,677	3,320
Coconuts	... No.	1,112,156	3,509	1,237,580	3,707
Copra	... lb.	155,044	986	313,823	1,316
Cotton	... lb.	1,133,726	81,899	1,297,046	81,723
Cotton seed ...	... tons	410	1,664	480	1,589
Grapefruit	... crates	4,375	1,871	4,579	1,898
Lime juice, raw ...	... gal.	171,813	7,148	184,909	8,575
Lime oil, distilled ...	... lb.	8,733	7,622	16,922	11,437
Lime oil, ecuelled ...	... lb.	1,667	2,666	636	1,102
Limes, green	... brls. & crates	9,997	7,556	—	5,564
Mangoes	... brls.	6,078	2,481	8,216	2,371
Molasses	... gal.	1,169,103	17,113	1,558,586	16,955
Oranges ...	... brls. & crates	11,447	7,058	8,506	5,351
Rum	... gal.	9,802	1,578	15,096	1,867
Salt...	... tons	1,900	3,116	2,000	3,325
Sugar	... tons	64,741	647,957	47,164	376,348
Tobacco (cigars and cigarettes)	lb.	—	—	—	1,276
Tomatoes	... crates	43,010	6,193	45,000	6,665

Antigua.

There were in 1938 two modern sugar factories in the Presidency, one at Gunthorpes, owned by the Antigua Sugar Factory Company (Henckel, Dubuisson and Company), and one at Bendals owned by the South Western Estates Company. The capacity of the former is approximately 25,000 tons and that of the latter 4,000 tons.

The average rainfall in 1938 was 47·28 ins. but it was fairly well distributed and the 1938 sugar crop amounted to 21,993 tons grey crystals and 325 tons muscovado. Sugar exports amounted to 20,844 tons crystals valued at £194,470 and 232 tons muscovado valued at £2,000 together with 1,054,087 gallons of molasses valued at £11,521.

The average yield of canes per acre was less than was the case in 1937, viz., 16·2 instead of 25·1 tons.

The Antigua Sugar Factory paid 15s. 0·8d. per ton for canes for the 1938 crop and the Bendals Factory 14s. per ton.

During the year expenditure was continued from the loan obtained from the Colonial Development Fund to cover the cost of certain extensions of the railway systems of the two factories. These extensions, one of which was completed early in 1937, will be of great assistance, especially to peasants, many of whom cultivate land far removed from the present railway lines and are faced with uneconomic transportation costs.

The 1938 cotton crop was reaped from 1,600 acres; the total production was 175,002 lb. clean lint. The crop was sold at prices varying from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6½d. per lb. for clean lint.

The area planted for the 1938-9 crop was about 1,800 acres. Germination was fair but most fields suffered badly from the very heavy rains early in November and in the latter half of December, while the cotton caterpillar did considerable damage in many districts.

The Government Land Settlement Schemes continue to develop. During 1938 the Factories purchased from peasants approximately 40,000 tons of cane.

Sugar cane experiments were continued during 1938: definite results are now being obtained and it is hoped that in a few years' time the application of these results to general agricultural practice will lead to economic increases on yield throughout the island.

The entomological investigations conducted by Mr. H. E. Box on the control of the moth borer of sugar cane, were concluded in 1938 on the completion of this officer's term of service.

A branch of the Agricultural Department devoted especially to the development of peasant industries, particularly cotton and vegetables, does increasingly valuable work.

The following table shows the relative exports of the principal products of Antigua over a period of five years:—

	1934.	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
Sugar (tons)	20,677	16,072	19,759	31,667	20,844
„ (value) ... ...£	196,534	151,249	181,293	318,603	194,470
„ acreage of cane reaped ...	9,686	9,800	10 100	10,877	9,930
Molasses (gal.)	808,459	324,562	536,177	679,410	1,054,087
„ (value) ...£	2,515	2,188	3,351	9,360	11,521
Cotton (lb.)	9,600	32,050	117,380	91,111	174,842
„ (value) ... ...£	480	2,062	8,988	6,951	11,910
Lime juice, raw (gal.) ...	3,712	6,916	6,106	1,170	2,678
„ „ „ (value) £	142	305	154	33	66
Tamarinds (barrels) ...	152	461	522	—	310
„ (value) ...£	93	295	522	506	279
Rum (gal.)	851	2,008	6,425	6,381	9,449
„ (value) ... ...£	133	293	935	1,080	1,152
Tomatoes (crates) ...	—	—	42	1,988	5,493
„ (value) ...£	—	—	5	292	639

St. Kitts-Nevis.

There is one central modern sugar factory, owned by the Basseterre Sugar Factory Company (Henckel, Dubuisson Co.), of a capacity of approximately 30,000 tons. It is connected to the various sugar estates by a narrow-gauge railway encircling the island. 27,935 tons of crystal sugar, of approximately 96 degrees polarization, were made. The area under cane was about 9,760 acres, giving an average yield of 20·51 tons to the acre.

Recently the planters have made serious efforts to increase the yields of cane by the introduction of parasites for the control of insect pests, and by an extended use of artificial fertilizers.

All estates have a certain number of contract labourers, who live in estate houses and receive free medical attention and a free plot of land for growing ground provisions and vegetables.

Nevis planters sold cane to the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory.

Small quantities of muscovado sugar and fancy molasses were manufactured in Nevis.

Over 700,000 lb. of lint were produced from cotton grown in Nevis in 1938.

There are Government agricultural instructors in Nevis and Anguilla, who pay visits to peasants' holdings and endeavour to improve their methods of agriculture.

Progress has been made with the land settlement schemes in Nevis and Anguilla.

The following table shows the relative exports of the principal exports of St. Kitts-Nevis over a period of five years:—

	1934.	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
Sugar (tons)	28,320	27,280	26,892	33,074	26,481
„ (value) ... ...£	260,000	236,964	236,959	329,354	203,984
Molasses (gal.)	973,000	453,999	474,024	489,693	694,151
„ (value) ...£	2,027	5,126	6,562	7,753	12,044
Cotton (lb.)	141,687	204,647	508,295	398,862	729,753
„ (value) ... ...£	8,200	10,327	33,885	29,588	45,193
Coconuts	105,646	95,157	9,030	7,868	—
„ (value) ...£	228	215	26	16	—
Tomatoes (lb.)	12,000	15,880	14,220	—	—
„ (value) ...£	105	120	100	—	—
Salt (tons)	1,302	1,677	2,500	2,000	2,150
„ (value) ... ...£	2,056	2,188	3,173	2,968	3,240

Dominica.

There was a general increase in the production of agricultural products and exports showed an improvement of £4,500 in their estimated f.o.b. value.

The lime industry is showing definite signs of recovery and the crop was estimated at about 58,000 barrels of fruit.

The fresh fruit export trade, excepting that in grapefruit, has shown satisfactory expansion. Increased shipments of oranges, mangoes and avocado pears were made and prices ruling were on the whole satisfactory to shippers.

An improvement in the price of copra and co-operation among coconut growers to develop an export trade in dry coconuts has resulted in a revival of interest in the coconut industry.

Although the price of cocoa showed improvement, adverse weather conditions seriously affected production.

The demand for vanilla showed considerable improvement and resulted in a big increase in production with prices better than they have been for a number of years.

A few of the principal estates are owned by Europeans, but the majority belong to local planters. There is a preponderance of peasant holdings which contribute to the production of staple products as well as to supplying produce for local consumption.

The raising of livestock is left to individual enterprise and the number raised is only sufficient for local needs.

There is no organized fishing industry, but natives engage in fishing to supply the local demand for fresh fish.

The following table shows the relative exports of the principal products of Dominica over a period of five years:—

	1934.	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
Limes, total crop estimated as " barrels "...	27,000	28,214	36,825	45,000	58,900
Limes, green or fresh (barrels)	3,790	4,035	3,865	4,450	3,789
Limes, green or fresh (value) ... ...£	4,598	6,123	5,968	6,644	5,288
Lime juice, raw (gal.) ...	74,908	48,074	88,460	110,765	125,249
,, ,, ,, (value)...£	4,523	2,002	3,686	4,679	6,145
Lime juice, concentrated (gal.)	7,462	3,372	2,783	1,735	469
Lime juice, concentrated (value) ... ...£	273	184	198	130	41
Lime oil, distilled (lb.)	6,288	7,127	9,189	8,733	15,721
,, ,, ,, (value)£	6,418	7,443	9,612	7,622	10,408
Lime oil, ecuelled (lb.)	245	140	350	1,667	58
,, ,, ,, (value)£	393	186	565	2,666	61
Bay oil (lb.)	14,988	16,474	21,282	—	28,666
,, ,, (value) ...£	2,206	2,421	3,229	2,998	3,936
Oranges (crates and barrels) ...	7,192	8,850	10,786	11,447	8,490
,, (value)... ...£	4,324	5,764	7,319	7,058	5,330
Grapefruit (crates) ...	3,167	5,386	3,038	4,375	4,568
,, (value) ...£	1,403	2,596	1,586	1,871	1,894
Avocado pears (crates)	4,344	3,726	5,158	4,845	6,294
,, ,, (value) £	838	744	1,171	719	1,320
Mangoes (crates) ...	4,084	3,462	8,616	6,056	8,204
,, (value) ...£	1,225	1,363	3,164	2,477	2,366
Cocoa (lb.)	324,333	344,156	354,578	274,108	391 095
,, (value) ... ...£	2,983	3,459	4,168	4,984	3,292
Coconuts	103,639	230,170	719,554	1,046,312	1,139,069
,, (value) ...£	249	452	1,991	3,271	3,358
Copra (lb.)	247,508	278,793	273,612	116,016	239,680
,, (value) ... ...£	836	1,066	1,497	773	1,042
Rum (gal.)	17,521	10,179	3,090	3,339	5,535
,, (value) ... ...£	2,281	1,428	424	480	697
Vanilla (lb.)	797	609	4,341	9,537	7,504
,, (value) ... ...£	109	152	868	4,048	3,755
Bananas (bunches) ...	37,850	71,527	99,858	114,812	78,864
,, (value) ...£	3,253	5,780	8,391	10,658	8,115
Hardwood (ft.)	108,466	95,407	131,638	100,000	41,356
,, (value) ...£	965	537	710	531	221
Tobacco Leaf (lb.) ...	12,800	5,823	3,042	—	10,641
,, (value)... ...£	1,031	349	178	—	1,259
Canoes & shells ...£	267	456	660	474	500

Montserrat.

During the year the island suffered through failure of the cotton crop as the result of adverse weather conditions. Exports of vegetables showed a marked increase; lime products, however, found limited demand. Economic conditions were generally unfavourable compared with the previous year.

The area planted in cotton in 1938 was 4,500 acres, approximately the same amount as in the previous year. Throughout the growing and harvesting period the crop was handicapped by unfavourable weather. Prolonged drought delayed the early establishment of fields; excessive moisture in the later stages made harvesting and drying of seed cotton difficult, encouraged the development of insect pests and boll diseases and placed difficulties in the way of securing an absolutely reliable and satisfactory seed supply for the following season. The total output of clean lint was less than half a million pounds.

The crop was readily disposed of at prices ranging from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. per lb. of lint in the United Kingdom and on the Continent.

Tomato cultivation was greatly extended and peasants realized remunerative returns. Other vegetables also found a demand in the Canadian and inter-Colonial market and the industry generally did much to assist peasants in tiding over depressed conditions which attended the cotton crop.

Lime fields also suffered to a considerable extent from the prolonged drought conditions which occurred during the first half of the year. Green limes and lime products found a limited demand abroad; it was possible to avoid any losses on the Canadian market through shipping only on cabled orders from brokers.

The following table shows the relative exports of the principal products of Montserrat during the past five years:—

	1934.	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
Cotton (lb.)	826,581	1,018,041	605,176	637,723	432,461
,, (value) ... ...£	41,329	54,106	33,950	44,860	26,630
,, (acreage planted)	3,106	4,438	4,450	4,500	4,500
Cotton seed (tons) ...	340	455	418	240	120
,, ,, (value) ...£	1,294	1,625	1,097	954	430
Limes, green or fresh (crates)	3,674	4,521	568	4,897	1,200
,, ,, (value) £	3,674	1,742	652	780	207
Lime juice, raw (gal.)	18,183	79,771	46,046	59,878	56,982
,, ,, ,, (value) £	698	3,417	1,917	2,436	2,364
Lime Oil ... ...£	2,133	2,309	1,835	3,036	469
Other vegetables ...£	855	1,154	455	340	129
Tomatoes (crates of 20 lb.)	8,097	18,334	45,868	40,942	33,864
,, ,, (value) £	1,350	2,733	6,975	5,891	5,568
Onions (lb.)	65,495	27,630	49,467	12,967	21,237
,, (value) ... ...£	397	149	226	58	116

Virgin Islands.

The Commissioner of Agriculture has strongly recommended perseverance in cotton as the staple industry and in consequence a five-year plan has been devised to establish it on a sound footing. A free grant of £500 received three years ago from the

Colonial Development Fund for the eradication of cotton pest host plants, *Thespesia* and *Eriodendron;* proved of great benefit to the industry.

A scheme for tobacco cultivation which was started in 1934 has been revived. Tobacco is being cultivated by a greater number of peasants, and a factory has been set up at Peter Island.

No arrangements for contract or for non-contract labour are in force and as practically everyone is possessed of his own land paid labour is difficult to obtain.

Cattle, sheep, goats and horses comprise the main items in the livestock industry, while poultry raising is an important secondary industry. The following figures show the estimated annual production:—

		Exported.
Cattle	No.	1,160
Sheep	No.	800
Goats	No.	2,450
Poultry	Doz.	150
Swine	No.	770
Fish	lb.	40,000
Mules and horses	No.	4
Fruit and vegetables		2,000

LIVESTOCK OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Although mechanical ploughs are very suitable for the hard clay soils of Antigua, cattle will for a long time be needed as plough and draught animals in that island and also in St. Kitts-Nevis and Dominica. In the former island a mixed strain with imported Mysore or zebu blood has been found very useful. Horses are used principally by the planters and overseers for riding about the estates. Mules are used to a certain extent for ploughing in both St. Kitts and Antigua. Donkeys are largely the means of transport of the labouring classes. Sheep are only required for the meat markets, and are usually of poor quality. Goats, pigs, and poultry are bred in large quantities for food purposes by the labouring classes.

In Antigua and St. Kitts there are qualified Government veterinary surgeons, who inspect all livestock on importation, examine market animals before and after slaughter, and periodically examine milking cattle. They also look after the health of all horses and mules belonging to the Government. They are allowed private practice among the estates of the island.

An investigation has been made into the incidence of Bovine Tuberculosis in Antigua and measures to combat this disease are receiving consideration.

VII.--COMMERCE.

The total values of the imports and exports of the Colony for the past five years have been as follows:—

	1934.	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports from—					
United Kingdom ...	245,654	231,319	278,282	298,781	284,021
Canada	112,635	121,792	133,333	154,102	172,906
Rest of Empire ...	86,203	98,948	103,588	147,933	127,712
United States of America	79,973	82,273	95,268	109,074	92,281
Other foreign countries	53,602	44,593	51,913	62,243	56,725
Total	578,067	578,925	662,384	772,133	733,645
Exports to—					
United Kingdom ...	379,628	299,481	321,104	685,195	257,551
Canada	119,170	184,242	218,978	83,661	246,205
Rest of Empire ...	36,200	40,859	48,053	48,381	35,452
United States of America.	16,957	17,439	16,836	30,941	17,956
Other foreign countries	25,221	29,681	26,462	28,703	19,722
Total	577,176	571,702	631,433	876,881	576,886
Percentage of value of exported sugar to total exports	77	70	66	74	65

From the above it will be seen that sugar forms the bulk of the Colony's exports, and that any lowering of the value of sugar exports, due to hurricane, drought, or low prices, is at once reflected not only in the total export trade but automatically in the import trade, because there is less money in circulation. The percentages of imports are as follows:—

	1934.	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
United Kingdom ...	42	40	42	39	39
Canada	20	21	20	20	23
Rest of the Empire ...	15	17	15	19	17
United States of America	13	14	15	14	13
Other foreign countries	10	8	8	8	8

It is interesting to note the extent to which the position of the United Kingdom has been maintained over the past five years, in spite of the fact that £1 now buys £1 worth of goods in the United States, as contrasted with 13s. worth in 1932 and 1933, after the departure of Great Britain from the Gold Standard. Owing, however, to the lower rate of import duty on British goods, the revenues of the Colony have suffered. The trade with the United Kingdom in motor cars, shoes, groceries, cotton, and fancy goods might be still further developed, but not by correspondence. Visits of commercial travellers with samples are very necessary.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The day wages of field labourers vary from 1s. to 2s. for men and 6d. to 10d. for women, with about 3s. 6d. to 6s. for artizans. The wages of domestic servants are from 4s. to 12s. a week. Most of the field work on the estates is done by the task, and in the crop season labourers frequently perform two tasks a day, earning from 16s. to 20s. a week. In addition to this, estate labourers are usually provided with free medical attendance, houses, and land for planting provisions.

For office workers and professional men the cost of living is about the same as in the country districts of England. The rent of bungalows or small houses is about £40 to £60 a year. The hotels, which are more like small boarding houses, charge between 8s. 4d. and 16s. 8d. a day. The average prices of foodstuffs per lb. are:—bread 4d., flour 3d., fish 4d., beef 8d., and milk 4d. per qt.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education.

Elementary or primary schools (all free and undenominational) are maintained by Government throughout Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica, and are State-aided in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands. There is an advisory Board of Education in each Presidency. A sum of £26,345 was provided for education in 1938. Pupil teachers are trained locally for three years, and then selected ones are awarded studentships for higher training at the Training College in Trinidad for men, or the Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College at Antigua for women. As the outcome of the Mayhew-Marriott Reports, the whole system of education in the West Indies is being considered by two Education Commissioners, Messrs. S. A. Hammond and H. W. Stokes, who have their headquarters in Trinidad and travel about from Colony to Colony.

Antigua.

The Boys' Grammar School, founded in 1884, is open to all races and denominations, but is the property of the Anglican diocese of Antigua. There are about 72 boys on the roll. The teaching staff consists of a headmaster and three whole time and four part time assistants. The Government subsidy in 1938 was £500, in part return for which free Government scholarships of £6 a year are given.

The Girls' High School, founded 1886, is open to all races and denominations, and has about 70 pupils, some 20 being boarders. The teaching is arranged for by a headmistress, a deputy, and five assistant mistresses, resident at the school. The Government subsidy in 1938 was £200, in part return for which there are five free Government scholarships.

The T. O. Robinson Memorial School, founded in 1898, is open to all races and denominations and has about 73 pupils, boys and girls. Miss Robinson, the proprietress, is aided by a teaching staff, and all the usual facilities for instruction and recreation are afforded. There is a School Board, and the Government pays a subsidy of £90 a year.

The Convent High School, established in 1933 is open to all races and denominations. There are about 98 scholars on the roll. The teaching staff consists of six Reverend Mothers.

In Antigua there are 22 elementary or primary schools and several small private ones; at Barbuda there is a primary school managed by the Anglican authorities and receiving a Government grant of £90 per annum. There is at St. John's a small night school, held in a Government school-building, under the auspices of Toc H.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Secondary education in St. Kitts is provided for by a Government Grammar Schools for boys, a Government subsidized High School for girls and a school managed by the Nuns of the Order of Missionary Canonesses of St. Augustine.

In Nevis there is also a Government subsidized school for both boys and girls. The standard aimed at is that of the Cambridge School Certificate.

There are 16 primary schools in St. Kitts; of these three are for infants, two for boys, and two for girls only.

In Nevis there are ten primary schools, one for infants, two for boys, two for girls and five mixed. There are five schools in Anguilla. An Inspector of Schools for the Presidency is stationed in St. Kitts, and in each of the other islands there is an Educational District Officer.

The number of children on the roll for the whole Presidency is 8,047.

There are two Homes for the Poor and Infirm in the Presidency, one at Basseterre, St. Kitts, and the other at Charlestown, Nevis.

Dominica.

Government maintains 28 primary schools at which the total enrolment in 1938 amounted to 7,904. There are five other schools of this nature operating, three of which receive a grant-in-aid from public funds; the remaining two are unaided and controlled by the Roman Catholic Body. Secondary education for boys is obtainable at the Government Grammar School in Roseau where the average attendance during the year was 41·6. The fees payable at this institution aggregate £6 *per* *capita* for the year and there are three scholarships available every year representing an annual value of £9 in the case of those from town schools and £19 in that of schools in the districts.

In addition to the foregoing the Order of the Faithful Virgin maintains, with the assistance of Public Funds, a Convent for girls, 93 attending in 1938; while the Wesley High School for girls had an attendance of 10; the fees for attendance at the former institution vary from 12s. to £2 10s. per term in the various stages of the school, those of the latter from 24s. to 33s.

There is also a lower boys' secondary school designed to meet the needs of the poorer classes, named St. Mary's Academy; it is under the control of the Bishop of Roseau and has an average attendance of 30 boys. The fees for attending this school vary from 15s. to 25s. per term.

Night schools exist at Roseau and Portsmouth, and agricultural instruction is obtainable both at the Government primary schools and at the Botanical Gardens.

Montserrat.

A sum of £2,892 was spent on education in 1938.

There were 12 elementary schools staffed by 33 teachers and 28 pupil teachers. The scholars on the roll numbered 2,988.

A grammar school for boys is maintained by the Government; the cost in 1938 was £600. A secondary school for girls and children receives a Government grant of £100 a year. Scholarships tenable at both secondary schools are awarded to scholars from primary schools.

Virgin Islands.

1,247 children are enrolled in the primary schools, all denominational and Government-aided. There are no secondary schools.

Welfare.

A small reformatory school exists at Antigua for about 20 boys. Reference has already been made in the chapter on the health of the Colony to homes for the aged and infirm and to the crèche system in the various Presidencies. A number of Mutual Friendly Societies exist with funds for sickness and burials, organized either in conjunction with the different churches or of an undenominational character.

There are Lodges of Freemasons in most of the Presidencies.

The principal religious denominations in the Colony are the Anglican, Wesleyan, Moravian Mission, Roman Catholic (very numerous in Dominica), and some minor sects of American origin. The Salvation Army has also rendered useful service of a general nature for some years past. There are now about

300 boy scouts and 400 girl guides in the Colony. The Toc H Association has been established in Antigua, the first branch in the West Indies.

Recreation.

Forms of recreation are plentiful for all classes. Sea-bathing in the warm blue-green water off the palm-fringed white beaches of Antigua and Anguilla is as good as can be found anywhere in the world; and in places in the other islands is also very good. Sailing and fishing are indulged in to a limited extent. Cricket is a sport that appeals to popular enthusiasm throughout the islands, and the inter-Presidential annual tournament always creates the greatest excitement. Tennis clubs exist in all the Presidencies, and it can be played on grass courts all the year round. Association football has become popular in recent years during the winter months. There is a 9-hole golf course at Antigua.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Sea.

The principal islands of the Colony are served by the following steamship companies:—

Canadian National.—From Canada.
Ocean Dominion.—From Canada.
Bermuda and West Indies (Furness Withy).—From New York.
American Carribbean Line.—From New York.
Harrison Line.—From England.
Compagnie Générale Transatlantique.—From Le Havre.

Smaller steamships of the Dutch Line also call at St. Kitts, and schooners and sloops make irregular calls at most of the islands. His Majesty's ships from the American and West Indies Station (headquarters, Bermuda), occasionally spend a few days among the islands, particularly in the winter months. During 1938, 1,223 British steamships, of a total tonnage of 5,238,047 tons, and 530 foreign steamships, of a total tonnage of 1,239,993 tons, entered and cleared the ports of the Colony.

Air.

The branch of Pan-American Airways that flies between Miami and Trinidad calls regularly for passengers and mails on Mondays and Fridays at Antigua.

Roads.

In Antigua there are 166 miles of roads (65 miles being main roads). The principal routes are gradually being reconstructed.

There are also motor-omnibus services in most of the Presidencies. In St. Kitts there is a main road 30 miles in length encircling the island. In Nevis there is a similar encircling road 18 miles in length. Anguilla has about 20 miles of good roads, but there are only about a dozen cars on the island. Dominica roads are a most difficult problem owing to the mountains and rivers and frequent landslides. There are now about 270 miles of roads of which 68 are motor roads. A launch service takes the place of an impassable road between Roseau and Portsmouth. Montserrat has 68 miles of roads, but not more than about half this distance is really suitable for motor traffic. The Virgin Islands have no motor roads outside Road Town, all land traffic being by horseback or donkey-back.

As mentioned in Chapter VI, there are narrow-gauge railways in Antigua and St. Kitts, but these are only for sugar transport.

Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones.

There are central Post Offices at St. John's, Basseterre, Roseau, Plymouth and Road Town; and 13 sub-offices in Antigua, 6 in St. Kitts-Nevis, 13 in Dominica, 4 in Montserrat, and 4 in the Virgin Islands. There is an annual overseas traffic of about two million letters and postal packages.

The telephone service throughout the islands is of the metallic earth system. In addition to a central exchange in each of the larger islands there are 2 sub-exchanges and 311 subscribers in Antigua; 3 sub-exchanges and 246 subscribers in St. Kitts-Nevis; 5 sub-exchanges and 146 subscribers in Dominica; and 2 sub-exchanges and 49 subscribers in Montserrat. There are also a few miles of telephone service in Anguilla.

The wireless telegraph system (owned by Cable and Wireless, Ltd.), is established at Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica, and a similar one, owned by the Government but operated by the Company in Montserrat.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

British currency is legal tender throughout the Colony, but in the Virgin Islands, where there is no bank and where practically all trade is done with St. Thomas, either American or Danish currency circulates along with British. Government accounts are kept in all the Presidencies in sterling, but in the banks and in many commercial houses the dollar system is used at a standard rate of $4.80 to the £. Barclays Bank (D.C.O.) has branches at Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica. The Royal Bank of Canada has branches at Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat. These banks pay a Government stamp duty of £62 10s. 0d. per annum each in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis, £25 in Dominica and £15 in Montserrat. Each has a note issue of $5 notes, to the amount of between $30,000 and $50,000 in circulation. They each have a Savings Bank section, which was paying 1½ per cent. interest on deposits in 1938. Government Savings Banks also operate in the principal islands. Amounts to the credit of depositors, on which interest is paid at 2½ per cent., were as follows:—

Government Savings Banks.

	31st December, 1934. £	*31st December, 1935.* £	*31st December, 1936.* £	*31st December, 1937.* £	*31st December, 1938.* £
Antigua	16,968	17,890	20,040	24,758	23,779
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	4,115	4,375	5,394	6,875	6,123
Dominica ...	5,056	4,899	6,180	6,573	6,511
Montserrat ...	627	667	689	1,321	1,545
Virgin Islands ...	1,296	2,587	3,371	2,349	3,064
Total for the Colony	28,062	30,418	35,674	41,876	41,022

There are no Agricultural Banks, except a small privately-managed one in the Virgin Islands.

Weights and Measures.

Weights and measures are standard Imperial and are periodically examined by Government inspectors.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Antigua.

A Superintendent of Public Works is assisted by an Assistant Superintendent and a Foreman, both from England, by a road overseer and assistant road overseer, a clerk, a storekeeper and a temporary draughtsman. The Superintendent is also Chairman of the St. John City Commissioners, and has for staff a city clerk and a junior clerk.

Works undertaken during the year consisted of the usual maintenance of Government buildings, property, waterworks and roads.

Colonial Development Fund works.—Further progress was made with the general programme of road reconstruction, and further assistance was received from the Colonial Development Fund for this.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

Staff.—A Surveyor of Works (who is also Superintendent of Telephones), assisted by a clerk, and by an executive officer in Nevis, constitute the principal staff in this Presidency. Nothing much beyond ordinary maintenance work was possible during the year. The improvement in the streets of Basseterre continues to be effected by oiling the surface and making concrete drains and pavements.

Colonial Development Fund works.—The Nevis Land Settlement Scheme continues to make progress.

Dominica.

Staff.—A Colonial Engineer assisted by two road overseers and an electrician comprise the senior Public Works staff here.

Works undertaken.—In recent years the chief undertaking of the Public Works Department was the construction of a road from Portsmouth to Hatton Garden estimated to £36,000. The cost of this work is being financed from Colonial Development Funds.

During the second half of the year torrential rains were experienced, with heavy floods causing considerable damage to roads, bridges, etc.

Montserrat.

Staff.—An Inspector of Works and Roads works under the general supervision of the Commissioner. He is also in charge of the telephone system. Repairs to buildings, water pipes, bridges etc., damaged during the earthquakes of the last three years occupied the officers of the Department during the year.

A programme of reconstruction work costing £21,000 is nearing completion and includes the reconstruction of the hospital, Belham Bridge, the prison, the Court House and Government House.

Colonial Development Fund works.—The extension of the water supply to country villages and the laying of concrete drains in the villages have greatly improved the conditions of life of the labouring peasant population.

Expenditure on increasing cold storage accommodation was met by a loan of £1,180 from Colonial Development Funds.

Virgin Islands.

The Commissioner supervises any public works. No work of importance was undertaken in 1938.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The Superior Courts of the Colony are presided over by the Chief Justice or Puisne Judge. Circuit Courts, with a jury of nine, are held three times a year each at Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat, and, as occasion requires, at Tortola. The Attorney-General or the Crown Attorneys have the function of a Grand Jury. A Court of Summary Jurisdiction, without a jury, for civil cases where less than £50 is involved, is held monthly in Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica, and the Virgin Islands, on alternate months in Montserrat, and quarterly in Anguilla. The Commissioners of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands act as Deputy Judges for this purpose. Appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the West Indian Court of Appeal, and from the Summary Courts to the Supreme Court. Magistrates in each Presidency deal with minor cases. In Antigua there are two Magistrates (one being for Barbuda), in St. Kitts-Nevis four, in Dominica three, and in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands one each (the Commissioners). The principal Magistrate in St. Kitts and Dominica is also the Crown Attorney. Appeals from the Magistrates' Courts go to a Judge of the Supreme Court, and in further appeal to the Full Court, which is held twice a year in Antigua and consists of the Chief Justice and Puisne Judge. The time for the payment of fines may be deferred, or they may be paid in instalments.

In each Presidency there are Justices of the Peace, but with very limited powers. Any two may act for a Magistrate, if the latter is an interested party. First offenders are frequently bound over and the assistance of one of the clergy invoked to help the person. Juvenile offenders are usually dealt with at a separate hour of the Court or else in the Magistrate's room.

The following table shows the number of convictions for various crimes and offences for the last four years:—

		1935.	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
Summary convictions :—					
1.	Offences against the person ...	1,138	1,213	1,253	1,298
2.	Praedial larceny	513	460	489	356
3.	Malicious injuries to property ...	40	27	18	33
	Offences against property (other than praedial larceny and malicious injuries to property)	291	312	338	342
4.	Other crimes	1,997	1,755	1,516	538
	Offences against the Masters and Servants Act, including Acts relative to Indentured Coolies	81	119	139	24
	Offences against Revenue Laws, Municipal, Road and other Laws relating to the social economy of the Colony ...	2,731	3,101	2,535	1,893
	Miscellaneous minor offences ...	2,883	2,748	3,274	3,523
	Totals	9,674	9,735	9,562	8,007
Convictions in the Superior Courts :—					
1.	Murder of wife or concubine ...	—	—	—	1
	Murder of child	—	—	—	—
	Murder other than wife, concubine or child	—	—	2	2
	Manslaughter	1	—	1	2
2.	Attempted Murder	—	1	1	—
	Rape	4	4	2	3
	Unnatural crime	—	2	—	1
	Other Offences against the person	24	77	12	18
3.	Praedial larceny	7	5	12	—
4.	Offences against property with violence to the person... ...	—	1	—	—
	Other offences against property...	31	37	25	30
5.	Other crimes	15	29	16	22
	Total	82	156	71	79

Police.

The Police Force is a Federal one and consists of two Superintendents, four Assistant Superintendents, and 148 N.C.Os. and men, all under the command of a Commissioner who has his headquarters at Antigua. A Superintendent and an Assistant Superintendent are usually stationed in Dominica, and in St. Kitts-Nevis. In Montserrat there is an Assistant Superintendent. The Commissioner of Police is also Commandant of the Defence Force of the Colony, and the Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents hold rank therein as Captains and Lieutenants respectively.

The period of first enlistment and re-engagement for N.C.Os. and men is three years. All men take part in musketry training and ambulance work in addition to their ordinary police duties. There are also 350 local constables enrolled, who can be called upon when required for extra assistance in the country districts.

Prisons.

The central prison for the Colony is at St. John's, Antigua. It has accommodation for 90 males and 47 females, and is staffed by a head warder, a matron, nine wardens and one wardress. Instruction is given to the male prisoners in carpentry, tin-smithing, baking, and to the females in laundry and sewing. Elementary education is voluntarily given to some of the more illiterate prisoners by certain members of the Toc H. Association, and the Prison Chaplain gives instruction in religion. Prisoners are also employed within the prison on stone-breaking, cleaning, etc., and certain of the male prisoners outside on road-work, in the Botanic gardens, pauper cemetery, and other public institutions. The prison bakery made over 30,000 lb. of bread during the year, supplying both the Prison and the Reformatory Training School.

129 males and 20 females were committed during the year, 25 males and 10 females coming from other Presidencies. The daily average was 80 males and 8 females. There are 84 individual cells for males and 20 for females; and 1 association cell for 5 males, and 3 to hold 3 each for females. There is an average of about 500 cubic feet of cell space per prisoner. There is also an infirmary on the male side to hold 9 and another on the female side to hold 3. The Prison Medical Officer pays daily visits. Prisoners who are seriously ill are treated under suitable precautions at the island hospital. There are 10 Visiting Justices to the Prison, who hold periodical meetings there to enquire into complaints and to consider questions of prison discipline. The boys' Reformatory School has already been referred to in the chapter on Education.

Numbers of prisoners.

Daily average in Prisons of the Colony for five years.

	1934.	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
Antigua (Central Prison)	24	22	69	85	88
St. Kitts-Nevis	48	64	80	42	41
Dominica	49	55	67	45	43
Montserrat	8	7	7	9	20
Virgin Islands ...	—	—	3	—	—
Total	129	148	226	181	192

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The prison is at Basseterre and consists of a group of stone buildings surrounded by a 14 ft. wall. On the male side there are 16 cells of 18 ft. by 10 ft. each, and on the female side 10 cells of about the same size. The average cubic foot space per prisoner is 714 ft.

252 males and 75 females were committed during the year, mostly on short sentences. The staff consisted of a keeper and six male warders and a matron and a wardress. Prisoners are taught and employed in the same manner as at Antigua, and sick prisoners are dealt with in similar fashion.

Dominica.

The prison is at Roseau, and consists of a group of stone buildings enclosed by a high stone wall. There are 20 cells for males and 8 for females, with an average cubic space per prisoner of 672 ft.

292 males and 135 females were committed during the year, mostly on short sentences. The staff consisted of a keeper, six male warders, a matron, and one wardress. Prisoners are taught and employed in the same manner as at Antigua, and sick prisoners are dealt with in similar fashion.

Montserrat.

The present prison at Plymouth is stone-built. There are 8 cells for males and 3 for females, with an average cubic space per prisoner of about 600 ft. 105 males and 21 females were committed during the year. The staff consisted of a keeper, a male warder, and a matron. Male prisoners with sentences over six months and females with sentences of over two months are transferred to the Antigua Prison. Owing to damage to buildings by earthquakes an additional warder is employed temporarily for night duty. A new prison is being constructed as the present one has been condemned owing to damage by earthquakes.

Virgin Islands.

The prison at Tortola is a large stone building more than sufficient for the needs of the Presidency. Only 11 prisoners were committed during the year. The staff consisted of a keeper, who is also the Corporal of Police, and a matron.

All the prisons of the Colony are kept scrupulously clean, and in St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat the Superintendents of Police have supervising powers as officers-in-charge of prison discipline.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Colony.

Legislation governing the employment of Women, Young Persons and Children was enacted to comply with the provisions of certain International Labour Conventions. Other legislation of importance was an Act to amend and consolidate the law relating to sedition and the importation of undesirable publications, and an Act relating to agricultural small holdings.

Antigua.

The Masters and Servants Ordinance, 1922, was repealed. Masters and Servants are now kept to their common law rights and the way is thus left open for further legislation if considered necessary. Legislation providing for the licensing of stores, shops, etc., and for the imposition of a trade tax was also enacted. An Ordinance was passed to regulate the examination and exportation of fruit.

Dominica.

The Masters and Servants Ordinance, 1923, was repealed. Ordinances were passed regulating fishing in the Presidency, and consolidating the law relating to liquor licences.

Montserrat.

The Masters and Servants Ordinance, 1922, was repealed. Other legislation governed the exportation of fruit, the Savings Bank.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

The Masters and Servants Ordinance, 1922, was repealed. Other legislation passed governed the imposition of sugar quotas, the Savings Bank, the incorporation of the Nevis Cotton Growers' Association, and a reduction of 12 per cent. in the customs surcharge rate.

Virgin Islands.

No important legislation was enacted during the year.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The following is a comparative table of the local revenue and expenditure of the Colony as a whole and its five component Presidencies for the past five financial years:—

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Montserrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*	*Leeward Islands Colony.*
1934.						
Revenue ...	80,620	101,847	52,332	18,189	4,531	257,519
Expenditure	80,351	86,497	63,837	22,750	5,874	259,309
Surplus or Deficit ...	+269	+15,350	−11,505	−4,561	−1,343	−1,790
1935.						
Revenue ...	83,846	101,595	51,846	29,140	7,328	273,755
Expenditure	85,420	92,189	62,896	25,927	5,881	272,313
Surplus or Deficit ...	−1,574	+9,406	−11,050	+3,213	+1,447	+1,442
1936.						
Revenue ...	84,734	107,751	52,925	25,667	4,993	276,070
Expenditure	88,849	96,648	64,162	26,650	5,501	281,810
Surplus or Deficit ...	−4,115	+11,103	−11,237	−983	−508	−5,740
1937.						
Revenue ...	111,118	123,500	65,119	30,176	13,481	343,394
Expenditure	90,325	104,713	68,858	32,025	6,576	302,497
Surplus or Deficit ...	+20,793	+18,787	−3,739	−1,849	+6,905	+40,897
1938.						
Revenue ...	102,501	137,041	64,939	24,159	8,907	337,547
Expenditure	97,597	120,563	69,857	37,168	6,712	331,897
Surplus or Deficit ...	+4,904	+16,478	−4,918	−13,009	+2,195	+5,650

The following sums were received by the Colony from Imperial Funds during the year:—

	£
Antigua—	
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes ...	21,536
St. Kitts-Nevis—	
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes	394
Dominica—	
Loan in aid of administration, agriculture, etc.	5,408
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes ...	3,300
Montserrat—	
Loan in aid of administration	3,000
Grants and loans for Colonial Development schemes ...	62
Virgin Islands—	
Grant for Colonial Development scheme	478

The outstanding Public Debts and Sinking Funds of the Colony as at 31st December, 1938 were as follows:—

	Total Debt.	*Sinking Fund (Market value).*
	£	£
Antigua	83,674	14,468
St. Kitts-Nevis	58,780	30,743
Dominica	201,653	1,708
Montserrat	10,393	2,830
Virgin Islands	Nil	Nil
Total	354,500	49,749

The main heads of taxation and their yields were approximately as follows:—

	Antigua.	*St. Kitts-Nevis.*	*Dominica.*	*Montserrat.*	*Virgin Islands.*	*Total.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Customs ...	51,203	59,780	27,108	12,111	2,974	153,176
Harbour, etc., dues	1,963	11,148	3,111	366	100	16,588
Internal Revenue ...	28,282	31,174	12,835	4,701	1,229	78,221
Fees	10,074	16,643	5,373	1,387	294	33,771
Post Office Telephones, Light, etc.	9,039	11,405	8,577	5,307	3,681	38,009
Miscellaneous ...	114	4,238	7,750	122	48	12,272

The Customs Tariff is arranged on either an *ad valorem* or a specific basis. The *ad valorem* rate is mainly on manufactured articles and is usually 10 per cent. British preferential and 15 per cent. general. As a result of the Ottawa Conference, certain improvements in favour of Empire goods were made in the tariffs throughout the Colony. Quotas were established for foreign textiles in 1934. Excise duties are leviable on locally made spirits or tobacco in such Presidencies as make them. Stamp duties are governed by Federal Statutes and are uniform throughout the Colony. There is no hut or poll tax. Receipts from sales of stamps in the Colony totalled £26,460 in 1938.

APPENDIX.

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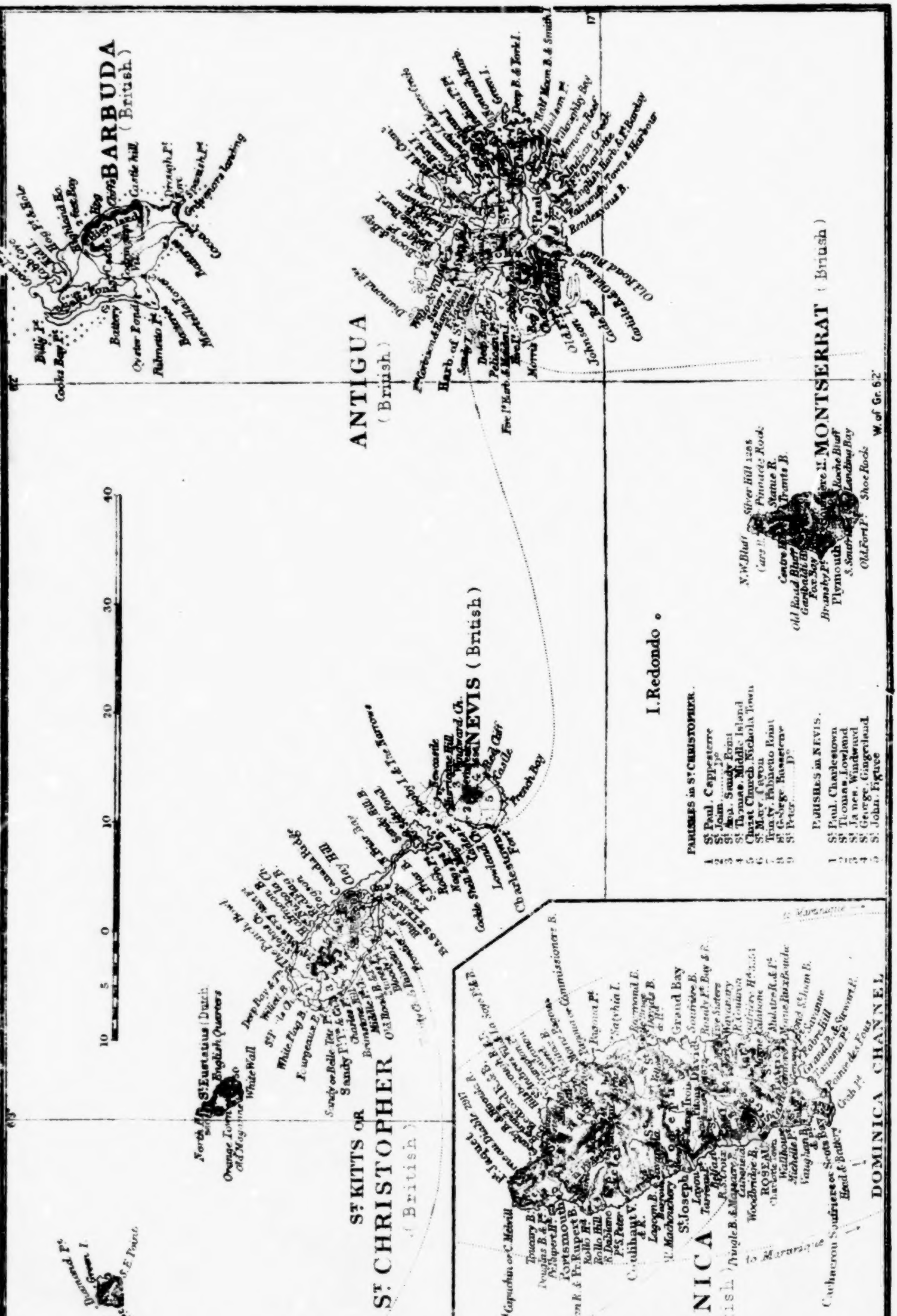
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St Eustatius (Dutch)
St KITTS OR
St CHRISTOPHER
(British)
Basseterre
NEVIS (British)
Charlestown
ANTIGUA
(British)
BARBUDA
(British)
MONTSERRAT (British)
Plymouth
I. Redondo
DOMINICA
(British)
Roseau
Portsmouth
DOMINICA CHANNEL
to Martinique
W. of Gr. 62°
10 5 0 10 20 30 40
PARISHES in St CHRISTOPHER.
1 St Paul, Capesterre
2 St John, Do
3 St Anne, Sandy Point
4 St Thomas, Middle Island
5 Christ Church, Nichola Town
6 St Mary, Cayon
7 Trinity, Palmetto Point
8 St George, Basseterre
9 St Peter, Do
PARISHES in NEVIS.
1 St Paul, Charlestown
2 St Thomas, Lowland
3 St James, Windward
4 St George, Gingerland
5 St John, Figtree

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Lists are issued showing schedules of Offices in the following Colonial Services with the names and brief biographical records of the holders. Each list includes the Special Regulations by the Secretary of State relating to the Service concerned :—

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